

THE JERUSALEM POST



VOLUME LXVII, NUMBER 20137

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1999 • SHVAT 4, 5759 • 4 SHAWAL 1419

NIS 5.50 (EILAT NIS 4.70)



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In limbo



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Stern, Nudelman to split from Yisrael Ba'aliya

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

MKs Yuri Stern and Michael Nudelman will break away from Yisrael Ba'aliya and form their own party next month, Nudelman told *The Jerusalem Post* last night. "I estimate we'll take with us 120-130 members of the party's [500-strong] central committee," Nudelman said after a highly charged committee debate in Tel Aviv.

The two will at that point decide whether to join Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu list, he added.

Nudelman, who is suggesting the new party be called Shiluv (Integration), told delegates that Yisrael Ba'aliya is on a path of self-destruction.

"People don't want to hear the truth; this house is almost destroyed," he said.

Earlier, party chairman Natan Sharansky went on the offensive. Without mentioning Stern and Nudelman by name, he said people must not stay in the party while they have one foot elsewhere.

It is Sharansky's contention that Stern has been working for Lieberman while still a Yisrael Ba'aliya member - something denied by Stern.

"It's unhealthy for the party; it's also not healthy for the man concerned - it turns him into a schizophranic," said Sharansky.

Uncertainty is in the air, he added, saying that the likes of Likud's Limor Livnat and Yitzhak Mordechai, former Likudnik Dan Meridor, and Labor's Haim Ramon have all had their doubts about their political futures. "But these people are not aiding other parties at the same time and that's how it should be with us."

The party's situation was summed up by MK Marina

Solodkin. "We've reached the peak of crisis," she said during her speech. "Yuri [Stern] is just saying what he said out of fear - he fears the central committee."

Sharansky is still not prepared to speak about a schism in the party, but confidantes admitted that a 30-percent vote against

Sharansky's proposals last night certainly points to a divide.

Sharansky described the votes as members expressing "their democratic right." However, Stern maintains that the entire selection procedure ahead of the May 17 elections is undemocratic. Last night he failed in a bid to move to a selection system

which would enable members of the wider party caucus to vote and not just those in the central committee.

Knesset sources were suggesting that Stern and Nudelman will have to establish a third immigrant party, as Lieberman "recognizes Stern as a troublemaker."

Another possibility being considered by the two and their supporters is joining any central party. "There isn't room for three Russian parties on the national stage," admitted Nudelman.

Supporters of the breakaway MKs said they intend appealing to the courts against the way Sharansky and central committee chairman Yuli Edelstein passed the party bylaws through the committee.

"It didn't appear on the agenda, and we think that's out of order," said one of the party's founders, who said he is carefully considering his position in the party.

On Tuesday, Stern supporters successfully received a court order preventing any party member from being thrown out by the leadership.

Sharansky replied that there was never any intention to do so.



Natan Sharansky (Israel Sun)

Mordechai likely to stay

By SARAH HONG

"Bibi is waiting for Itzik - still." This is how a top Likud official yesterday summed up the situation between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Netanyahu still has no official word from Mordechai on whether he is staying in the Likud, though the overwhelming assumption is that he is staying.

Netanyahu is known to have asked Mordechai several times over the past few days to join him at yesterday's election rally in Beit Shemesh, so he could announce there that he was not leaving the Likud, but he refused.

The two left unfinished business after their four-hour tete-a-tete, which ended at 3 a.m. Tuesday, and were expected to have another follow-up private meeting again yesterday, but both their schedules

PM assails the media, Page 2

could not accommodate such an appointment. The meeting has been tentatively rescheduled for today.

Nevertheless, it is stressed in the Likud that Mordechai must indicate firmly where he is heading by early tomorrow afternoon. This is the deadline for placing names on the ballot in the Likud Knesset race.

Mordechai has not veered even minutely from his mantra in recent days. Yesterday he again said: "I am in the Likud. Period. But there is a lot that needs to be deliberated and formulated about where we move from here. I still have much thinking to do, and when I have worked things out in my mind to my satisfaction, I will be able to inform everyone about my conclusions."

However, the fact that Mordechai has been conferring with Netanyahu of late has led to a consensus in the Likud and the rest of the political arena that in the end he will stay in the Likud, and that he is stringing Netanyahu along till the very last minute before making his formal announcement.

His recent meeting with



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presses the flesh yesterday on a campaign visit to Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market. (Flash 90)

Labor's Haim Ramon and with Amnon Lipkin-Shahak is seen as an attempt on the parts of Shahak and Ramon to talk Mordechai into joining them. Shahak's venture is said to depend on the recruitment of such stars as Mordechai, and only if this could be achieved would Ramon join. The fact that this bid failed is pointed to in the Likud as further evidence that Mordechai is staying put.

Mordechai has been gaining quite a bit of media attention, but there are warnings from key players in the Likud central committee that Mordechai's vacillation is greatly disliked there and that the

3,000 central committee members may exact revenge on Mordechai when the party list of Knesset candidates is elected on February 8. The central committee members will be those who pick the new list.

The Likud, meanwhile, is gearing up for Monday's primary, in which the party leader is to be chosen. In radio commercials the Likud rank and file are called to come out and cast their ballots. Netanyahu is being challenged by former defense and foreign minister Moshe Arens, his erstwhile political patron.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday became the first Likud

higher-up to come out in support of Arens. Even Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who has been highly critical of Netanyahu and who considered leaving the Likud, has endorsed Netanyahu. MK Uzi Landau, who recently withdrew his own primary challenge against Netanyahu, has not backed Arens. Some in the Likud explain that those who face the race for the Knesset slots dare not ire the party central committee.

Olmert is free from such considerations, as his mayoral role prevents him from having Knesset membership. Speaking from Tokyo, Olmert said yesterday that he has "long known

Misha Arens and long admired him. I have in the past urged him often to run for prime minister, but I was not successful. I am sure he will make an excellent prime minister."

Olmert was tipped to compete against Netanyahu himself, but did not in the end challenge him due to lack of support inside the Likud. He strenuously criticized Netanyahu and is now regarded as de facto head of the internal opposition in the Likud. Olmert's younger brother, Yossi, is heading Arens's campaign against Netanyahu.

Olmert promised to be back in Israel to vote in the Likud primary.

'Foreign Report': 10,000 Russian experts in Iran

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, DOUGLAS DAVIS and news agencies

The Mossad estimates that up to 10,000 Russian experts are assisting Iran's biological, chemical and nuclear weapons programs, according to the newsletter *Foreign Report*, to be published in London today.

The government's dissatisfaction with Moscow's unrelenting block of weapons technologies to Iran has led to a chill in defense relations between Israel and Russia, defense sources said.

According to *Foreign Report*, Israel was attempting to put pressure on Russia by postponing a trip there by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, whose visit was to have coincided with the resumption of a defense cooperation agreement.

The government has also frozen cooperation between the Israeli arms industry and the largest Russian arms exporter, which was seeking techniques for rebuilding tanks and aircraft captured during wars.

Defense sources said Mordechai did not postpone a trip, but had simply never accepted the Russian

invitation.

Mordechai, who informed US President Bill Clinton of the Mossad assessment during a recent visit to Washington, also reported that Russian experts were helping Iran to develop Shihab-3 and Shihab-4 ballistic missiles, as well as a missile identified as the SS-400, which will have a range of 3,600 kilometers.

The newsletter said Israel believes the missiles might be in operation by 2002 and capable of carrying nuclear warheads by 2007.

A defense official told reporters, however, that Iran has delayed a second test launch of its Shihab-3 surface-to-surface missile because of operational problems.

The official, who refused to be identified or directly quoted, said the Iranian missile program was still on schedule and the Shihab-3 would probably be operational by next year.

Iran first tested the missile last July. Its 1,300-km. range puts Israel among the countries within its reach.

The official told reporters in Tel Aviv that Iran was having trouble trying to apply sophisticated Russian technology to a simplistic missile frame it purchased from North Korea.

Iran said the missile is based on domestic technology and design. The Israeli official said the July 22 missile test showed most of its systems worked.



Remembering the Baba Sali

Rabbi Babalof blows the shofar, assisted by Ariel Haim of Agudat Shai, as multitudes of the faithful visited Netivot yesterday on the 15th anniversary of the death of Rabbi Yisrael Abuhatzzeira, known as the Baba Sali. The annual pilgrimage is a festive event known as a "hifluka."

(Meni Mikaelson/Israel Sun)

Clinton defense decries 'vague case'

By HILDE KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - The White House defense team yesterday blasted House prosecutors for presenting a vague case that President Bill Clinton committed perjury in his grand jury testimony last year.

The House Judiciary Committee's report to the House of Representatives contains a "stunning lack of specificity" in maintaining that Clinton testified falsely, and as a result the defense does not know what lies it is supposed to be rebutting, argued Gregory Craig, the special counsel to the president, in the second day of the Clinton team's presentation at the Senate impeachment trial.

"The uncertainty, fluidity, vagueness of the charges in this case... has been an aspect of this process that I submit here has been

profoundly unfair to the president," said Craig.

The perjury charge - including accusations that Clinton lied in his opening statement before the grand jury - is "astonishing," because it goes even beyond what independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr alleged in his report to Congress last September, Craig stated.

Craig argued that some of the perjury allegations - that Clinton lied because his and Monica Lewinsky's testimonies conflicted over when their affair began, and how many times they spoke on the telephone - are "silly discrepancies over minor details and are 'certainly not a good or justifiable basis' for removing Clinton or any other president."

He urged the senators serving as the jurors in the case to read the transcript and review the video-

tape of Clinton's testimony, after which "you'll see that the president was truthful."

"We believe that what you'll conclude is that what the president did and said... was not illegal, and you must not remove him from office," Craig said.

Craig played a videotape segment of legal experts' testimony before the House Judiciary Committee that laid out the strict requirements for proving perjury, and their evaluation that the Clinton charges fall that test.

The vagueness of the allegations, contained in the first of the two articles of impeachment passed by the House, is akin, Craig said, to charging someone with robbery or murder without mentioning what they stole or whom they killed.

See CLINTON, Page 2

Government launches satellite-TV era

By JUDY SIEGEL

Fifty-centimeter satellite dishes are expected to sprout on rooftops around the country like mushrooms after the rain before the end of this year, as digital-broadcasting satellite services begin.

A new era of "freedom of choice, open skies, lower prices, more variety, and better quality" will be introduced, agreed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Communications Minister Limor Livnat, at a ceremony in the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

Subscribers will be able to choose from menus of foreign and local stations, and even Internet connections, according to their

taste and needs. This concept has frightened the cable TV companies, which forced subscribers to accept a take-it-or-leave-it deal. However, now faced

Bezeq-led DBS consortium wins first tender, Page 13

by competition, they are expected to lower their rates significantly.

The ceremony was due to be held at the capital's Beit Agnon press center, but Netanyahu - who is also acting finance minister - insisted on hosting the media event and

accepting the oversized, ceremonial NIS 30 million bank check presented as a license fee by the DBS Satellite Services consortium.

Other financial groups are expected to follow soon.

Netanyahu recalled that when he was growing up in Jerusalem in the Fifties, "there was only one brand of yellow processed cheese," but now there are many competing for the consumer's shekel. In the late Sixties, there was only one TV channel, he said, but now "no one will be able to tell you what to watch." Such liberalization will occur in the field of transport and other sectors as well, he said.

Livnat agreed, saying that monopolies cannot be forced on the public.



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PM greeted with cheers in Mahaneh Yehuda



Shaul Amior kisses his wife Susanne yesterday after being appointed minister-without-portfolio in the Prime Minister's Office, in charge of social affairs. (Isaac Harari)

Amor sworn in as minister without portfolio

By NINA GILBERT

MK Shaul Amior (Likud) was sworn in yesterday as minister without portfolio after the appointment was unanimously approved by the Knesset.

Amor, 59, a social worker by profession and head of the Knesset's social caucus, will be responsible for social affairs in the Prime Minister's Office.

Amor is former mayor of Migdal Ha'emek. He decided to leave the job last year so he

could remain an MK, which he has been since 1988.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Amor is a "symbol of tolerance and goodwill."

The opposition supported the appointment, but its MKs slammed the move as an attempt by Netanyahu to cover for his failures in the social area during the election period.

MK Ophir Pines-Paz delivered a harsh speech, telling Amor that he was "only an ornament" for Netanyahu's election campaign, since he knows he is in bad shape,

with a recession and high unemployment.

Pines said that if the prime minister had really wanted him he would not have waited until now to appoint him as minister.

MK Emanuel Zissman (The Third Way) interjected: "Maybe he wants to take votes away from the Labor Party. That's good."

Pines-Paz responded to Zissman, a Labor MK in the 13th Knesset: "Don't forget where you came from."

He said Amor was deserving of the job, but "the government is not deserving of you."

Labor extends nominations deadline

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

A Labor Party committee decided yesterday to postpone the deadline for candidates to nominate themselves for the primaries until Sunday, allowing time for the central committee to change the rules so that MK Haim Ramon would agree to run.

The decision is expected to be approved by the central committee today when it meets in Beit Berl. At the meeting today the party is expected to decide on the exact method of voting in the party's primaries scheduled for next month.

The reconvening of party activists is the result of Ramon's threat not to seek re-election under the conditions approved by the central committee on Sunday night.

Ramon's ally MK Yossi Beilin yesterday handed to party secretary-general Ra'anan Cohen more than 120 signatures of members, needed to call a session of the central committee.

At 3 p.m. this afternoon delegates will hear Ramon explain why he is opposed to the previously-approved electoral system. On Sunday, Ramon failed to show at the meeting, leaving some committee members and MKs angry that he had the audacity to complain about the outcome.

On Sunday, the committee approved the selection of candidates to the party's national list, whereby members would be allowed nine to

11 votes. This number, according to Ramon is too large. His confidantes explained that he fears the more votes allowed per member, the further his name will fall down the list. Yet most in Labor, both Ramon's supporters and enemies, agree in all probability that Ramon will receive a top slot, whatever the voting system.

At today's meeting two Beilin proposals will be discussed: Reducing the number of permissible votes to 7-9 or keeping the number of votes at 9-11 but allowing members to prioritize the top five names on the list.

"I'm committed to doing whatever I can to keep my party intact," said Beilin. "I can't afford to let Haim Ramon leave the party."

In receiving these proposals, Cohen said this proves the democratic nature of the party - that Beilin used available processes to appeal against a previous decision. But this leaves the likes of Shevah Weiss and other long-serving politicians angry as they feel this will lessen their chances of re-election.

Beilin promised he would do his utmost to ensure that anyone dissatisfied by the U-turn will remain within the party.

We're talking about something entirely technical here, explained Beilin. We've got over much tougher issues here in recent years and if we survived those, then I'm sure we'll come through this too. Meanwhile, Maj.-Gen. (res) Matan

Vilna'i yesterday pledged his future to the Labor Party, announcing he will run for a slot on the party's prestigious national list, where he will be in open competition with former senior military officers Ori Orr and Oren Shahor.

In welcoming Vilna'i to the fold, Labor chairman and former chief of General Staff Ehud Barak described him as a natural leader, possessing the necessary skills, capability and drive. Choosing his words carefully, Vilna'i said he believes the Labor Party is the only way. He did not answer reporters' questions about his recent self-description as center or right of center.

The Labor movement is wide, he said, containing views from the left, right and center. "I feel in Labor there is room to compete," he said.

In his opinion Labor's victory in the May 17 election is a foregone conclusion. "I'm not a party to those who doubt whether we'll succeed in the elections," he said.

Vilna'i, who retired from the IDF last July, was approached by a variety of parties and politicians anxious that he join their movements. Barak pointed out that Vilna'i had sensibly toured the country, discussing political issues with a wide range of people before deciding on Labor.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres also welcomed him, saying he is sure Vilna'i did not take the decision lightly.

Meridor: I may not run with Shahak

By SARAH HORG

Centrist prime-ministerial hopeful Dan Meridor said yesterday that there is no certainty that in the end he will run with the other centrist candidate Amnon Lipkin-Shahak on the same ticket, especially if there is no ideological harmony between them.

Meridor spoke on a tour of the Golan as he brought the issue of the Golan as an example of where he and Shahak may disagree - to the point which would make political partnership impossible between them.

"I am opposed to negotiations with Syria over the Golan in which the outcome is a foregone conclusion a priori. If Shahak and I cannot reach an understanding over issues such as this, there is no certainty that we will find our-

selves on the same ticket. We will not band together at any price, under any condition, no matter what. Our running together is certainly not a development which should be regarded as inevitable," Meridor said.

This is the first time that Meridor has so explicitly cast doubt on the eventual merger of his prime-ministerial venture and Shahak's.

The two have been unable for weeks to reach agreement on who will head the new centrist list, which both were planning to set up in unison.

In the meantime, they have put off projected separate efforts to collect the 50,000 signatures which each prime-ministerial candidate needs to get in order to put his name on the ballot, unless he has the support of 10 MKs.

Shahak rejected Meridor's proposal that they merge their campaign headquarters into a single party, but leave the question of who will run for prime minister till later. Shahak wants the prime-ministerial nomination to be decided forthwith.

He said yesterday that he "is not worried by what Meridor said. I still say that I have the best chance of all to defeat Netanyahu, and this should be the only consideration. I know we will succeed."

Nevertheless, the Meridor pronouncement is regarded as very significant, since it highlights the increasing difficulties between Meridor and Shahak on reaching agreement. Meridor may have been trying to apply pressure on Shahak by signaling that his ultimate support for Shahak's candidacy is not guaranteed.

Why did Vilna'i choose Barak?

Matan Vilna'i not long ago described himself as being right-of-center. Considering his background and upbringing, this is not just an orientation of convenience. His late father, the famed Prof. Z'ev Vilna'i, was firmly and prominently in the political Right for decades and was among the founders and mainstays of the Land of Israel Movement.

Most of Vilna'i's political shopping expeditions were on the Right. He considered deals with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, with ex-Likudnik Dan Meridor and with Tsomet's Rafael Eitan. The latter, in fact, even offered him the Tsomet leadership on a silver platter, but with Tsomet unlikely to cross the Knesset threshold, it was not a viable option.

After all these feelers on the Right, Vilna'i finally made his choice - Labor. His explanation was that he is not so much enamored of the party, but that he opted for the man at the helm. Vilna'i, according to his own account, came to Labor explicitly and exclusively because of Ehud Barak.

Vilna'i is telling the truth, though perhaps not the whole truth. If he were so impressed by Barak - hardly a stranger to him - then why did he have to snoop around so many parties on the opposite side of the political divide before making up his mind? Why was the alliance with Barak not immediate and unstinting?

The answer is that Vilna'i still smarts, and very badly so, from the brutal kick in the face delivered him when he, the deputy chief of general staff, was shipped over for the final and top promotion of his military career. Vilna'i left the IDF embittered and obsessed by the wrong done him.

This is where we get to his window shopping in the various parties. He arrived for talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when it appeared that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai would be defecting from the Likud. If Mordechai would not be there, then for Vilna'i it would become the ideal party.

Things between Vilna'i and Netanyahu were chummy enough, until it became apparent that Mordechai is posturing more than vacillating in earnest, and that the probability that he would walk out of the Likud is minimal. At that point - defense portfolio or not - the Likud had to be written off for Vilna'i.

He and Mordechai could not be featured on a single ticket because it was Mordechai, more than any other man, who refused to appoint him chief of staff, and that with adamant persistence, if not outright hostility. The two had unfinished business from the days Mordechai himself was a general.

BACKGROUND

Netanyahu at the time was reported to have favored Vilna'i for chief-of-staff, but he did not challenge Mordechai's on. After Mordechai insisted that he must have a man he can work with, Netanyahu, in Vilna'i's eyes is tainted in the episode, but to a lesser degree. His sin is one of omission, of not trying hard enough on his behalf.

The driven Vilna'i also tested the ground with centrist candidate Meridor. He told Meridor he had much in common with him ideologically.

He was ready to join him, but on one condition - that he not team up at any stage with that other centrist prime-ministerial hopeful - Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. Why not?

Because Shahak is the other general-turned-politician with whom Vilna'i won't be caught on the same ticket. In Vilna'i's eyes he is almost as bad as Mordechai. Shahak was the chief-of-staff whom Vilna'i was slated to replace. For years he was Shahak's second-in-command. Yet Shahak did everything he could to prevent Vilna'i from succeeding him.

Shahak and Mordechai, in other words, collaborated in foiling Vilna'i's appointment.

Meridor candidly told Vilna'i that there is no way he could guarantee that he would never link up with Shahak. At that point Meridor

Meimad will not register as religious party

By HANI SHAPIRO and ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Meimad is not running in the present elections as a religious party, according to Rabbi Michael Melchior, chairman of the party's executive.

He was speaking at an impromptu press conference after the leaders of the moderate religious movement registered it as a political party yesterday.

In 1992, under the name Meimad: Renewing Religious Zionism, the party received some 17,000 votes, just short of the minimum necessary to be represented

in the Knesset. Yesterday, the movement's leaders registered it as a new party, Meimad Jewish State Democratic State.

"If we only appeal to the moderate national religious element we've done nothing," Melchior said, insisting that the party had large areas of support among traditional and secular voters.

Melchior cited a poll, which the party commissioned from Dabaf. Although the results had not been fully tabulated, he said, the general trend showed that the party could garner about 2 percent of the vote, a figure which would put the party above the minimum thresh-

old, with almost three Knesset seats. He said the poll also showed that by joining one of the larger blocs, Meimad could add more than two percent to either a center list or Labor's One Israel - the party's leaders have met with representatives both of Labor and the center bloc.

NRP leader and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said yesterday that Meimad would be a front for Labor.

"Today, it's fashionable for every party to look for a knitted kippa. Knitted kippot are in, and Meimad will be the knitted kippa of either Barak or Shahak," he said.

ON THE RECORD

This thing smells bad - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the second break-in to Stanley Greenberg's offices in Washington.

The Labor movement is wide, containing views from the Left, Right and Center, I feel in Labor there's nothing complete - Matan Vilna'i on joining the Labor Party yesterday.

Today, it's fashionable for every party to look for a knitted kippa. Knitted kippot are in, and Meimad will be the knitted kippa of either Barak or Shahak - NRP leader and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy.

He's not a general, he's an aluf - President Ezer Weizman on Matan Vilna'i entering politics.

We're all adults, and grudges from the past are evidently influencing people in their decision-making process, and that's human - Amnon Lipkin-Shahak on Vilna'i's decision to join Labor.

ה'תשנ"ט

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Netanyahu-Barak tiff over Pollard continues

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The Prime Minister's Office yesterday denied a report that Benjamin Netanyahu would ask all candidates for the premiership to sign a letter to President Bill Clinton calling for the release of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard.

The idea had reportedly been aired after Labor Party leader Ehud Barak refused to co-author such a letter with Netanyahu and was seen as a means to embarrass Barak.

"The letter was initiated and

published by Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein and he got the signature of the prime minister, but unfortunately, not only did Barak refuse to sign it, he refused even to see Edelstein," Netanyahu's spokesman said yesterday evening.

Meanwhile, Barak announced that he had contacted the White House Tuesday night to discuss the case. He refused to give details, saying that was in line with his policy of quiet diplomacy over the issue.

As both sides continued to

exchange barbs over the issue, Netanyahu, on an election campaign visit to Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market, said he was "very disappointed" that Barak had not signed the letter.

Sources close to the prime minister also said Barak had asked the White House not to release Pollard until after the elections were over so that Netanyahu would not be able to take credit.

But earlier, a source told *The Jerusalem Post* that Netanyahu himself had felt it would not be

politic to expect US President Bill Clinton to make a decision about Pollard while his impeachment hearings are under way.

Labor last night demanded that Netanyahu apologize for the accusations against Barak.

"These accusations are hypocritical," a Labor spokesman said. "When Netanyahu was opposition leader, he flatly refused to lobby Republican circles on behalf of Pollard, despite repeated requests from the head of the public committee to free Pollard, Amnon Dror."

EU to include Israel in R&D program

By JESSICA STENBERG

A European Parliament committee will advise the European Union's legislative body to accept Israel to the fifth program framework, a \$17 billion research and development assistance initiative, said an EU official yesterday.

Israel was tentatively excluded from the four-year research and development program at an EU Council of Ministers meeting last month for failing to implement the Wye peace accord.

If accepted to the program, Israel will be able to bid for tenders, create joint ventures, implement strategic alliances and have access to 14.96 billion euros, almost \$17 billion in research and development grants from the EU's fifth program framework.

However, even if the committee votes to accept Israel to the pro-

gram, the measure must still be passed in the EU's 626-member Parliament. There's also a tight schedule to consider, with the program's first research tenders scheduled to be published in the first half of February, less than a month from now.

At the same time, the program is an expensive venture for participating countries, which must pay \$160 million over the course of four years "if they want to be part of the club," said the EU official.

If Israel misses the first year of the four-year program due to political machinations, "it will miss the boat," he said.

The Foreign Ministry said it is "very concerned" that Israel won't be included in the program, primarily due to the tight February timetable.

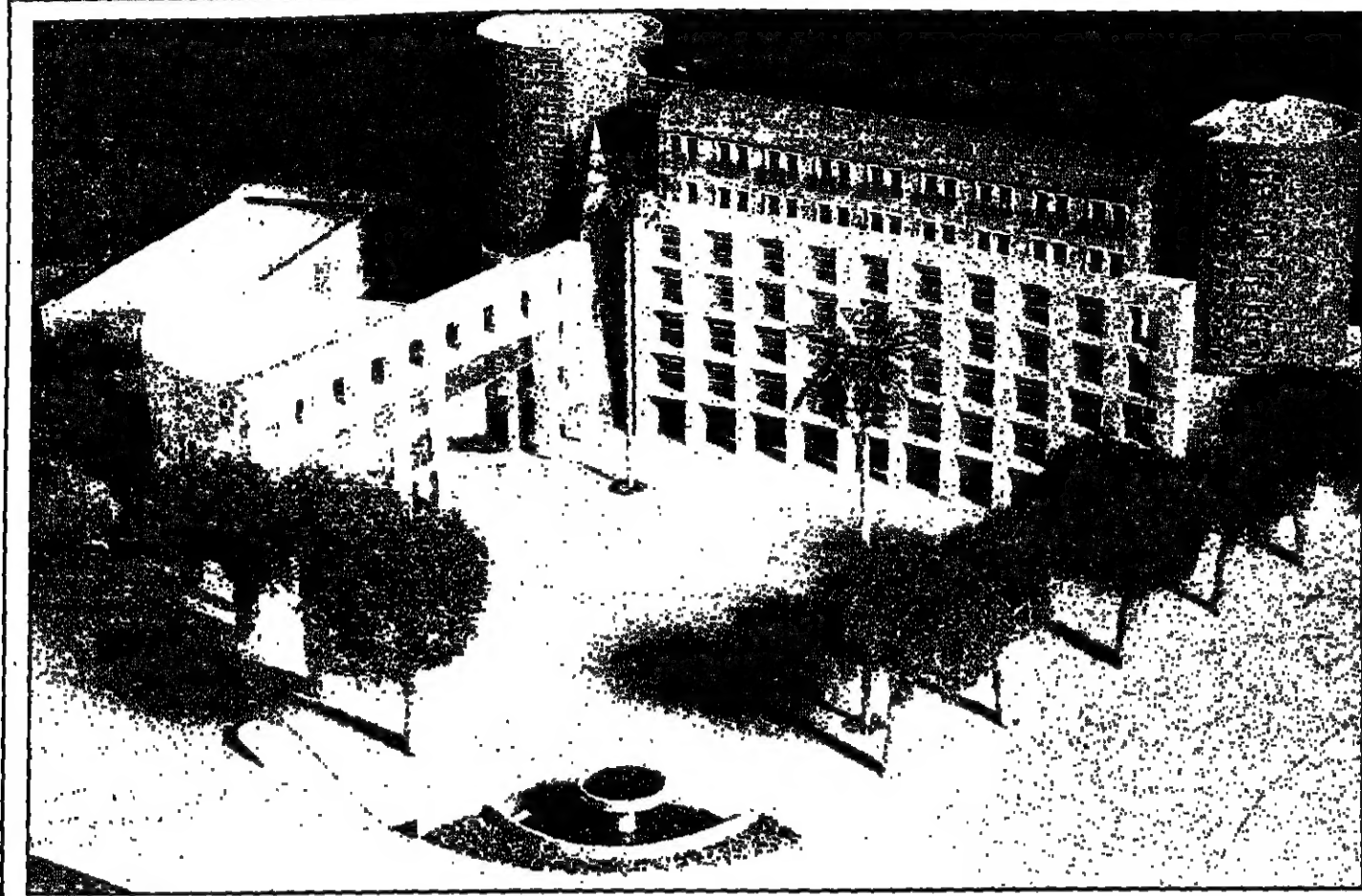
It was a similar story in the fourth program framework, when

Israel was accepted late and lost money in the process, said Foreign Ministry deputy director of finance Victor Harel.

Paying \$160 million over four years is a large chunk of cash, he said, which is why Israel wants to "be in one of the cars when the train heads out." So far, six EU countries - Ireland, Germany, Italy, Austria, Sweden and Greece - seem to support Israel's participation in the program, said Harel.

"We don't see a direct link between the Middle East peace process and participation in this very technical agreement," said a German Embassy political counselor.

At the French Embassy, spokesman Pierre Leboucq said Israel's participation in the fifth framework is desirable on principle, but "it's clear that such a decision has a political dimension."



Jaffa to get new Reform complex

A model is shown of a synagogue, cultural center, and youth hostel planned by the Reform movement for Jaffa. The complex is to be located on Sderot Yerushalayim and is intended to serve the residents of south Tel Aviv, Bat Yam, and Holon. It is to be funded by \$9 million in contributions to Beit Daniel, Tel Aviv's only Reform synagogue.

(Text: Haim Shapiro)

Clinton calls on Congress to approve funding for implementing Wye

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton called on Congress on Tuesday night to approve funding for Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan that he pledged to the sides following the Wye River negotiations.

Clinton's appeal came during his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress during which he presented a plan of domestic policy priorities, ranging from saving the Social Security system to providing incentives for companies to invest in American inner cities.

The speech occurred on a strange day, even for Washington, in which the White House counsel, just hours earlier, opened his defense of Clinton in the Senate impeachment trial.

Clinton was speaking in the very House of Representatives chamber in which representatives last month approved two articles of impeachment against him. Clinton did not refer at all to his own situ-

ation Tuesday night.

Americans "can be proud" of America's role in bringing peace to Northern Ireland and to Bosnia, and in pressing to roll back Serbian aggression in Kosovo, the president said.

"All Americans can be proud that our leadership renewed hope for lasting peace in the Middle East," Clinton said. "Some of you were with me in December as we watched the Palestinian National Council completely renounce its call for the destruction of Israel. I ask Congress to provide resources to implement the Wye agreement - to protect Israel's security, stimulate the Palestinian economy, and support our friends in Jordan."

"We must not, we dare not, let them down."

In the coming months, the administration is due to present Congress with a request for \$4.2 billion in assistance to help pay for security-related expenses resulting from the IDF redeployments under the Wye deal.

In an international donors event

here on November 30, Clinton publicly promised to seek congressional approval for an additional \$400 million for the Palestinians.

Jordan is also expected to receive between \$200m-\$300m, in a demonstration of support for Jordan's helpful role in achieving Arab-Israeli peace.

Clinton said the US would continue to battle against terrorism, as well as the spread of nuclear weapons. He also pledged a five-year aid package to Russia and the other countries of the former Soviet Union in order to deter the sale of nuclear technology.

Clinton briefly referred to Iraq, saying that Baghdad has "defied its obligation" to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.

He signaled that Washington would try to depose Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"America will continue to contain Saddam - and we will work for the day when Iraq has a government worthy of its people," Clinton said.

State of the Union, Page 6

Irish PM advises against PA declaration

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said yesterday that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat should seek an over-all peace settlement with Israel rather than a quick declaration of statehood.

Although Ireland supports Palestinian self-determination,

Ahern said the goal was a comprehensive agreement and suggested it would be a mistake to go it alone and declare statehood.

Arafat has threatened to make such a declaration on May 4 when he contends the interim peace accord with Israel expires.

"Quite frankly, the idea of just

jumping into that and making a bad situation worse is not going to be helpful to anybody," Ahern told a small group of reporters at a breakfast meeting in Jerusalem.

"I think it has to be a comprehensive settlement. A declaration is not a comprehensive settlement."

Comparing the Israel-Palestinian negotiations to the Irish peace process, Ahern said Ireland had to amend its position several times to carry all parties along.

He said he would stress to Arafat, as he did to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, that the only way to resolve the issues was through "genuine compromise."

"If you put together something that doesn't work, at the end of the day you are only kidding yourself," he said.

If Arafat went ahead and declared a state, Ahern said that would be an "entirely different situation," in which the European Union would decide what course to take - a hint that Europe might recognize the Palestinian state. But he added, "I still think that it won't solve things."

Later yesterday, Ahern flew into the newly opened Gaza International Airport.

He was met by Arafat at the foot of the plane, where both men listened to their national anthems and reviewed an honor guard, before withdrawing for consultations.

Ahern said that during three hours of meetings Tuesday Netanyahu was emphatic that the peace process would go forward despite the Israeli elections.

Netanyahu, he said, indicated that "while the cards might not be brilliant, they have to keep on playing. He didn't just want it to drift aimlessly on." Ahern said he thought before meeting Netanyahu that the four-month election campaign would stall the peace process.

"That was the message I thought I would come out with, but I have to be absolutely honest, that was not the message I left with," said Ahern.

Ahern also said that he received a conflicting analysis of the situation in Lebanon from Netanyahu and Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss.

Netanyahu maintained that an Israeli withdrawal would lead the Iranian-backed Hizbullah guerrillas to move down to the border with Israel and launch attacks on northern Israeli settlements, Ahern said.

However, the Irish delegation got a more upbeat impression from Hoss who indicated Hizbullah would not pursue a guerrilla campaign against Israel once there was a withdrawal, and that the Lebanese army would deploy into the vacuum left by Israel.

Ahern said the impression he got was that "if Israel were out of there, that would be it." (AP)

Ahern: All hell will break loose

Northern Ireland's peace process must soon overcome a "great Catch-22" or face a crisis, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern warned yesterday.

Ahern told a small group of journalists that "nobody has a bright idea" how to resolve months of deadlock between Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble and Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, the key backers of last April's peace accord.

Trimble, the Protestant politician who is supposed to lead a new multiparty government for Northern Ireland, is refusing to

form one that includes Adams' Irish Republican Army-linked party unless the IRA starts disarming first.

The British government has set March 10 as the target date for transferring powers to the unformed administration, which is to be called the Executive and have 10 posts, two filled by Sinn Fein. Speaking more frankly than he has back home, Ahern said the IRA is refusing to destroy even a token amount of its hidden tons of weaponry, and as a result Trimble might continue to deny Sinn Fein's eligibility to hold office. AP



Welcome to Israeli labor customs

Some incoming airline passengers face delays and meticulous inspections by customs officers at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday, while others benefitted from sanctions by workers pressing wage demands and passed through unchecked.

(Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

Ross noncommittal about meetings with PA

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - US Mideast negotiator Dennis Ross yesterday declined to confirm any meetings in Washington with the Palestinians next week, nor to be drawn into a discussion about the impact of the Israeli elections on the peace process.

He repeatedly said that the US is committed to the Wye agreement and that "both sides have made clear that they are prepared to implement" it.

The Palestinians have "worked to carry out many of their com-

mitments - many, but not all,"

Ross said, adding that it is clear that the Palestinians have been fighting terror and confiscating weapons.

Ross declined to indicate anything substantive about reports of a meeting next week in Washington with Palestinian negotiators. Instead, he said that last week in Israel he had made some "suggestions about the best ways to facilitate the process of implementation," and that the suggestions were being considered.

He spoke in New York at a briefing sponsored by the Philadelphia

think tank Middle East Forum.

During the wide-ranging discussion, Ross also suggested that the White House would use its waiver in the next few months to avoid moving the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Congress had passed an initiative calling for the embassy to be relocated, but it also provided the president with the means to avert action in the name of "national interests."

In response to a question, Ross said he did not "see a relationship between the Pollard issue and [Wye] negotiations." Jonathan Pollard's case "is an issue that

matters to Israelis" and has been raised with the Americans in the past by prime ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Benjamin Netanyahu and by Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, Ross said.

President Bill Clinton is reviewing the Pollard case, although it is US intelligence and military communities, the US State Department, and some 60 senators have urged him not to free Pollard, who is serving a life sentence in a federal prison charged with spying for Israel.

The review is not complete, Ross said.

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Hanegbi: Ohana documents all inauthentic

By NINA GILBERT and LIAT COLLINS

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said yesterday that not a single authentic document has been found by the attorney-general and state attorney in the Ohana case.

Hanegbi, speaking in the Knesset on a motion to the agenda on the affair, warned that Yehiam Ohana's claims must be viewed with utmost caution, since they are based on documents that have clearly been falsified.

Speaking at a gathering at the Supreme Court yesterday,

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said the investigation of the documents is not yet complete, but many were found to have been forged. He said there is no new evidence so far which would justify a retrial for Ohana, who claims corrupt officials were behind his conviction on a drug charge 17 years ago, for which he served two years' imprisonment.

Rubinstein also said he does not believe politicians are involved, but he suggested that those who expressed an opinion on the matter should consider their actions.

Law Committee chairman

Hanan Porat (NRP) said that in addition to others, he had also perhaps fallen victim to the case.

Porat said that, a few weeks ago, Ohana and Rachel Lev had visited him and showed him the documents. However, Porat said he made it clear to them that he could not evaluate them. "I said the only thing I could do is to bring the material to the attorney-general and ask him to look into the matter."

Porat said that if it indeed is found that the case is a "fraud, then I also fell victim, while fulfilling my role, to a wide-scale deception, and I can only be great-

ly sorry about this and that things were published that could harm greatly respected people in the judiciary and law enforcement systems."

At the same time, he said he felt he was fulfilling his role as Law Committee chairman according to his best judgment. He noted that the attorney-general was also shocked by the allegations and did not immediately reject them, but called for a thorough investigation.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani does not believe the affair was politically inspired and said the police is carrying out

its work responsibly.

"The police is working professionally and I think the attorney-general made the correct decisions and the truth will ultimately come out. Concerning the politicians, I think those who handled the matter acted as far as I can see in innocence and I don't think there is some kind of political affair behind it."

"On the question of whether there is some other kind of element behind this, I don't think so, but we must investigate fully to reach clear conclusions," Kahalani said.



Israeli spy suspect Udi Hargov is led into court in Larnaca, Cyprus, yesterday under heavy security.

Lod workers block highway in pay demand

Lod municipal workers blocked the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway at the Ben-Shimon interchange yesterday morning, to back up a union decision that stronger measures were necessary to force the municipality to pay their salaries - which it has not done in over two months.

Police dispersed some 500 demonstrators, taking several into custody. Shortly thereafter the flow of traffic was restored.

This was the latest development of the deepening fiscal crisis plaguing the Lod Municipality. A general strike, now in its fourth day, has closed municipal offices and services.

"We are fighting for our lives and the lives of our children," said union leader Nicki Michaeli. "We have nothing more to lose. They don't listen or respond to us. They want to fire 500 of our workers, and we won't allow it."

In response to pressure from parents, the union agreed yesterday to reopen schools, except for kindergartens.

In related labor strife, several hundred Or Yehuda municipal workers demonstrated at the Interior Ministry in Jerusalem, after briefly blocking the Jerusalem-Highway, to demand salaries withheld for four months. In Geder, local council workers began sanctions to press demands for their December salaries.

(AP)

Espionage trial of two Israelis begins in Larnaca court

News agencies

LARNACA - Two Israelis charged with spying on Cyprus repeated their not guilty plea at the start of their trial yesterday.

Police presented sophisticated gadgets including three radio scanners, a lap-top computer, cellular phones and eight maps of the island seized from the defendants they say were found on the pair. Igal Damary, 49, and Udi Hargov, 37, denied charges of conspiring to spy.

They were arrested at their leased seaside apartment in Zygi on November 7 and have been in custody since.

The accused looked relaxed as they entered the courtroom, for the first time without handcuffs and holding silver worry beads.

They denied the charges last month but were called to repeat

their plea on the conspiracy charge after prosecutors amended its wording.

Authorities made the charge more general from its previous wording, which restricted the conspiracy to a charge of only spying on military facilities.

"With the equipment in their possession they had the capability of monitoring not only National Guard (army) but police frequencies and other government departments," said prosecutor George Papaioannou.

The charge of spying carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Israel has denied the two were spying on Cyprus and diplomatic sources said Nicosia is under considerable pressure to drop the case.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres, in Cyprus last month, said

the two were working to prevent an Islamic terrorist act against Israel.

Israeli experts will be in Cyprus this week to examine the exhibits, their lawyer said. He declined to specify who the experts were when asked by journalists.

Cypriot authorities say the two men had scanners tuned into restricted police radio frequencies when they were arrested and one of them had been seen loitering outside a military base in the region the day before their detention.

The charge sheet accuses the two of "collecting information on the military installations of Cyprus which could be useful to another state." It does not say which state, and police have refused to speculate.

The offenses were allegedly

committed between October 15 and November 6 - the first date referring to a visit by the two which coincided with a large scale military exercise.

(Itm)

Court orders Jerusalem Religious Council to convene

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The High Court of Justice yesterday ordered Religious Affairs Minister Eli Suissa and Rabbi Yitzhak Rabbag, chairman of the Jerusalem Religious Council, to show just cause why the Jerusalem Religious Council should not meet.

The ruling follows a long series of efforts by the Meretz faction in the municipality and the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center to seat Conservative Rabbi Ehad Bandel and Reform Rabbi Na'ama Kelman, who were both nominated by Meretz, on the council and efforts by the ministry and Rabbag to avoid seating them.

On November 19 the High Court ruled that the two should be part of

the religious council and that the minister should sign their appointments and publish them in *Reshumot*, the official gazette, on December 3.

Rabbag then called a council meeting for November 29, announcing that the council would then approve its 1999 budget. The petitioners again appealed to the court, which ruled that the council could meet, but could not transact important business until after December 3.

In fact, Suissa never endorsed their appointments, which were eventually signed by Prime Minister's Office Director-General Moshe Leon and published on December 15. Since then, there has been no council meeting, although

according to regulations, the new council is to meet within a month of being appointed.

In a similar dispute, the Kiryat Tivon Religious Council failed to meet last night when its Orthodox members boycotted the meeting, because it was to be attended by Conservative Rabbi Kili Shalom Rosenberg and Gavriel Shavit, who is identified with the Reform movement. According to regulations, council chairman Yehuda Silberstein must call another meeting for next week, which is to take place whatever number of council members is present. A similar situation exists regarding the Haifa Religious Council, which failed to meet on Monday night for want of a quorum.

Levy denies funds cut for sex assault victims

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Education Ministry funds for the treatment of children who are victims of sexual assaults have not been cut, despite reports to the contrary, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said yesterday.

Responding to media reports that the funds had been reduced, Levy said: "whatever is needed for dealing with this subject will be found. Even if we need additional funding, it will be found."

Some NIS 6 million is currently earmarked for this, ministry officials said. Levy said the most important work done in this regard was in preventative and in identifying victims of attacks.

"We don't want to reach a situation where we have to deal with a rape, although if there is one, it must be dealt with. We have to treat these things before they happen, and this is done mainly through working with teachers."

Levy reiterated his commitment to make use of rape crisis center experts to deal with the recent rise in sexual assaults involving school pupils.

"We have to make use of everyone who has experience in this matter," he said.

The ministry's focus on preventing other violence in schools is currently on providing training for teachers in dealing with the subject, Levy said.

Education Minister Director-General Benzion Dell explained that new programs aimed at the pupils themselves may be designed after the Vilna'i Committee currently studying the problem submits its recommendations by the end of July.

Levy added that he expected Matan Vilna'i to complete his work on behalf of the committee, despite Vilna'i joining the Labor Party this week.

Discussing other subjects related to his ministry in a press briefing, Levy said he has not changed his mind about his support for the idea of establishing a university in Ariel, and presenting this idea to the cabinet.

NEWS

in brief

NY's Giuliani to help Holocaust survivor cabbie

New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani has promised to get a Holocaust survivor back on the road.

Sam Goldstein, 75, a cabbie for most of his 45 years in New York, lost his career last Friday night when his taxi was among the 30 vehicles crushed when a playground on the Lower East Side collapsed into a parking garage below ground. Giuliani said he would help Goldstein get another cab, with which the Polish-born survivor earns about \$160 a day.

"It's not the money. I love to talk to people. I learn more in my cab than other people learn in school," Goldstein told the *New York Daily News*. "I drive a cab to give back to America. America gave me everything I have. I came here with nothing."

Marilyn Henry

Ravitz: Final budget negotiations on Tuesday

Final negotiations and voting on the much-delayed Budgetary Arrangements bill and 1999 state budget in the Knesset Finance Committee should take place next Tuesday, said committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) yesterday.

At present, Ravitz's conditions for advancing the Finance Committee's budget negotiations are contingent upon the contentious religious councils bill, which will be debated Monday and put to vote Tuesday morning in the Knesset. The hard-line sponsored religious legislation is aimed at barring non-Orthodox representatives from gaining seats on local religious councils, as ordered by a recent Supreme Court ruling.

Jessica Steinberg and Nina Gilbert

Hanegbi: Indictment against Raviv in weeks

An indictment is to be served "in the next few weeks" against Avishai Raviv, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said yesterday.

Raviv, a former General Security Service agent, allegedly failed to prevent the murder of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"The indictment is being prepared and will be filed with the courts," added Hanegbi, responding to a parliamentary query.

According to the charges, Raviv was aware of Yigal Amir's intentions to assassinate Rabin but did not inform his GSS contacts.

In November, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein announced his decision to prepare an indictment. Raviv is to also be charged with conspiracy and inciting to racism, but not as an accomplice in the Rabin murder.

Nina Gilbert

Shinui becomes separate Knesset faction

The Knesset House Committee yesterday approved the formal breakaway of MK Avraham Poraz from Meretz to head a one-man Shinui faction in the Knesset.

Poraz is to run at the head of Shinui in the upcoming elections, and initiated the separation. However, Poraz is to continue to cooperate with Meretz in the Knesset until the elections.

The separation is based on Poraz's disagreement with Meretz's economic platform, with Poraz aiming to preserve the economic interests of the middle class.

In 1997, the Citizen's Rights Movement and Mapam voted to unite, but Shinui decided against the move, and Poraz started operating independently in the Knesset.

Nina Gilbert

Foundation figures

The Jerusalem Foundation announced yesterday that in 1998 it raised \$36 million, an increase of 48% over 1997.

Foundation president Ruth Cheshin presented these figures to the Board of Directors, prior to the Foundation's International Council meeting, which will take place next week in London.

Over the past year, the foundation has invested in more than 200 different projects, including directing \$965,000 to coexistence projects, \$5.7 million to welfare projects, \$1 million to health projects, and \$6.3 million to the arts.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert recently ended the city's 32-year alliance with the foundation, which was established by Teddy Kollek when he came into office in 1965.

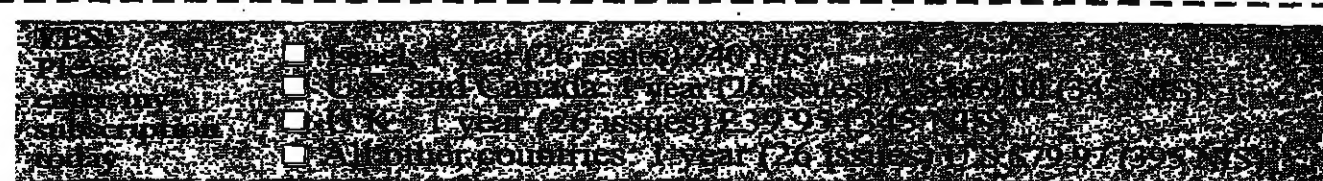
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Who loves Saddam?

Isn't the Middle East ironic? Just as key Arab leaders are angrier than ever at Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, France and Russia are going further than ever to appease him.

Here's what's happening: Iraq took two steps recently that enraged other Arab states.

First, it went back on previous promises to the UN by claiming parts of Kuwaiti territory. (Remember, this is how the whole crisis started back in 1990.)

In a newspaper article, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz described Kuwait's borders as "a bombshell that may explode in the future."

Kuwait complained to the Arab League about Aziz's "lies and deliberate fabrications of history."

Various Iraqi high-ups, meanwhile, said the border agreement had been "imposed."

(Translation: If and when the power balance changes, they'll unimpose it.)

One parliamentarian, Ibrahim Yusuf Turki Jaddua, explained, "The Security Council imposed this decision on the basis of a British map never recognized by Iraq.... Iraq was amputated of territory and oil fields. Why must Iraq continue to accept this unjust situation?"

Hey, I know a good reason! How about a crushing military defeat in 1991? Perhaps that's what the sanctions inspections, and bombings are for.

Next, Iraq denounced Arab rulers in terms extreme by even the usual rhetorical standards, sort of closer to what US President Bill Clinton and independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr probably say about each other in private.

One official Iraqi newspaper published a cartoon of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as a belly dancer, performing to music by Clinton.

King Hussein of Jordan was called a "dwarf."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was angry that other Arab leaders did not more vigorously denounce the US bombing raids last month.

Further, most Arab states want to keep postponing an Arab summit to discuss the Iraq crisis.

So Saddam got nasty and made things worse for himself.

IT'S worth quoting some of the anti-Saddam statements at length to get the flavor of this debate.

The Saudi newspaper *al-Jazira*, which reflects the royal family's views, ran an editorial with the not-too-subtle title, "An Insane Tyrant."

It says the international community is right in demanding the removal of Iraq's rulers and suggests this is also an Arab and Islamic consensus. Saddam and friends should be judged before a war-crimes tribunal, like the Nuremberg court, the editorial said.

"Saddam Hussein personally

shoulders the same measure of responsibility that Adolf Hitler bore for his crimes against humanity," and especially for destroying his own country.

In fact, "it is shameful" that the international community doesn't get rid of him, the piece said.

Egyptian leaders and newspapers stressed the point that demonstrations and protests against the US-British bombing attacks were not intended as support for Saddam but as sympathy with Iraq's suffering people.

The official radio station called him a "butcher" and the "worst Arab leader ever." And for the first time, Egyptian leaders met publicly with members of exiled Iraqi opposition groups.

Meanwhile, the Gulf states are also hunting more intensively for allies in their struggle with Saddam. Iran's reform-minded but not necessarily in control President Mohammed Khatami will reportedly make his first trip to Saudi Arabia in March. That's quite a switch from the days when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini proclaimed Saudi Arabia one of the world's most evil regimes.

Khatami's visit follows a meeting last year in Iran between Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Kuwait is doing the same thing by making up with Jordan, after years of anger over Jordanian backing for Saddam Hussein in 1991. Jordan has been outspokenly anti-Saddam for some years now.

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister Abd al-Aziz Dakhil recently became the first high-level Kuwaiti visitor to Amman in 10 years. Jordan still imposes all its oil from Iraq at half-price. Perhaps the Saudis or Kuwaitis might like to give it an alternative bargain.

OK, so let's summarize. Iraq is on the defensive, extremely isolated, has tried to sabotage or fool the inspectors, and is openly announcing an intention to break the commitments it has already made.

For some reason, some people see this as overwhelming evidence that it's time to make a unilateral concession to Iraq and end the sanctions.

France has proposed to the UN Security Council, with Chinese support, to end the oil embargo and scrap the current inspection system. With Russia increasingly ruled by Yevgeny Primakov, Moscow's biggest friend of Iraq and Iran, this gang of three is just gathering steam.

And, of course, this group's major argument is - are you ready? - that the Arabs want the sanctions lifted and poor Saddam left alone.

The Region



Barry Rubin

Clinton lays out ambitious agenda

Ignoring his impeachment, the US president used his State of the Union address to propose an increase in military spending and to focus on domestic issues

President Bill Clinton called for "bipartisanship and civility" Tuesday as he assessed the state of the nation and offered a bold plan to use huge surpluses to protect federal retirement and health care programs rather than cut taxes.

Clinton, on a day of high drama that shifted from his trial in the Senate to his State of the Union address before Congress, asked for billions of dollars for new domestic programs, for a better-prepared military and for helping Russia rid itself of nuclear weapons.

He also announced the government will sue the tobacco industry for smokers' health costs.

The Democratic president received a respectful standing ovation from members of both sides in a Republican-dominated Congress bitterly divided over his impeachment.

The beleaguered president, in a confident and animated speech that belied the fact he is on trial in the Senate, received a warm welcome as he echoed an appeal for bipartisanship by new House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

With the economy booming and the budget balanced, Clinton said America's achievements are sometimes overlooked "in the clash of controversy."

Several Republicans boycotted the address, saying it was inappropriate for the president to appear before Congress during his impeachment trial.

"The president is demonstrating his lack of respect for the Congress," Reps. John Shadegg and Bob Schaffer wrote in a letter to their Republican colleagues explaining why they wouldn't attend the speech. "We will not play a role in facilitating his disrespect."

Also conspicuously absent when the justices of the Supreme Court entered the House chamber was Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who is presiding over the Senate trial deciding whether to remove Clinton from office.

Rehnquist's aides reportedly had questioned whether it was appropriate for him to attend the speech.

Schaffer, in an interview before the speech, said he was staying away out of respect for the presidency, which he said Clinton had "defiled" by his affair with Monica Lewinsky.

Most Republicans, however,

decided to follow the lead of new House Speaker Dennis Hastert, who wrote in a letter Friday that despite the "discomfort," Congress had a duty to hear the views of the president.

"The state of our union is strong," Clinton declared to rousing applause from an audience that included his wife, his cabinet, diplomats, and special guests, including baseball star Sammy Sosa.

Clinton introduced Sosa as a hero of two countries - the US and his native Dominican Republic.

At one point, he singled out his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, saying "I honor her" for her work with children and on behalf of the nation.

Wearing a black pantsuit brightened by a gold-toned American eagle pinned to her left shoulder, Mrs. Clinton smiled, applauded and stood when members of Congress stood to applaud the president.

"I'd like to take just a minute to honor her, for leading our millennium project, for all she's done for our children, for all she has done in her historic role to serve our nation and our best ideals at home and abroad, I honor her," Clinton said, slowly emphasizing his last three words.

Mrs. Clinton smiled, rose from her seat in the gallery and mouthed "Thank you" to the applauding crowd below.

Republicans, in their response to the president's speech, said the nation's business would not be hurt regardless of the outcome of Clinton's impeachment trial.

"Our country is not in crisis," said Rep. Jennifer Dunn. "No matter what the outcome of the president's situation, life in America will go on."

In the ornate House chamber where he was impeached one month ago on a party-line vote, the president was received with respect and interrupted by applause 95 times.

Democrats were most enthusiastic. Two of his harshest Republican critics - House Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas and House Majority Whip Tom DeLay of Texas - sat stonily by side.

As Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott left the chamber, photographers overheard him asking a companion whether Clinton had "no shame."

Clinton called for a dollar-per-



President Clinton delivering his State of the Union address on Capitol Hill on Tuesday.

hour increase in the national minimum wage and announced that the Justice Department will sue the big US tobacco industry to recover billions of dollars in health care costs spent on smokers.

"With our budget surplus growing, our economy expanding, our confidence rising, now is the time for this generation to meet our historic responsibility to the 21st century. Let's get to work," he said.

The president proposed a \$12 billion increase in military spending, part of \$110b. to be added over the next six years.

He called for \$4.2b. - a 70 percent increase - to reduce the threat from Russia's nuclear arsenal and redirect the work of Russian scientists from weapons to civilian research.

The initiative would help finance the dismantling and destruction of warheads and dangerous materials and accelerate Moscow's with-

drawal of troops stationed outside of Russia.

Clinton devoted only 15 minutes of his 77-minute speech to foreign policy.

He asked Congress to help him "pursue peace, fight terrorism, increase our strength and renew our alliances - to build a stronger 21st century America in a freer, more peaceful world."

He scored Cuba as the only non-democratic government in the Western Hemisphere and criticized China, Iraq and Serbia on human rights.

"Stability can no longer be bought at the expense of liberty," he said of China, but warned that it must not be isolated.

Clinton said the US will continue to contain Iraq's Saddam Hussein. "And we will work for the day when Iraq has a government worthy of its people," Clinton said.

In the aftermath of the killing of

more than 40 ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, Clinton made no new pronouncement but said the US and NATO allies "are pressing the Serbian government to stop its brutal repression in Kosovo, to bring those responsible to justice, and give the people of Kosovo the self-government they deserve."

With the economy booming, Clinton reported "the state of our union is strong. America is working again. The promise of our future is limitless. But we cannot realize that promise if we allow the hum of our prosperity to lull us into complacency."

The president heavily emphasized education. He said he would send Congress a plan that for the first time holds states and school districts accountable for their progress and rewards them for results.

Schools that fail to comply could lose some of the \$15 billion the federal government spends on education.

Moving from last year's call to "save Social Security first," Clinton proposed transferring 60% of expected budget surpluses over the next 15 years - \$2.7 trillion - to the Social Security account to keep the government retirement program solvent until 2055.

Many Americans watching the speech to Congress said it told them more about the state of the presidency than the state of the union.

"He's sitting here as if everything's going OK. I think it's just a facade," said Michael Norton, a 40-year-old salesman who watched Clinton's State of the Union speech Tuesday night from the Boston Athletic Club. "He's talking about all the safe issues. This is like a last-ditch effort to save himself."

Others saw a different Clinton - one unswayed by his impeachment trial, one who has stayed true to his agenda despite the political turmoil around him.

"He's more confident - it's like he's not even thinking about the other issues. He's really saying, 'The sky's the limit,'" said Joe Agin, one of about 20 people who watched the speech at the L and J Cafe, a bar and Democratic hang-out in El Paso, Texas.

"I think he's putting the stamp on his administration. He's saying, 'I'm not going to let history judge me by the impeachment trial.'"

(AP)

Tintin for ambassador

As new Europe searches for an Everyman to represent the old Continent, bets are on the 70-year-old cartoon adolescent in golfing knickers

By CHARLES TRUEHEART

PARIS - As signs bloom of a new pan-European mentality, the search is on for that elusive Everyman who can represent the cherished values that all peoples on the Old Continent share.

A cartoon character, Captain Euro, has been proposed as the new currency's superhero. But he lacks both history and heart. And why invent what exists already? Europe's emblematic person has been around for 70 years, and there's scarcely anyone on this side of the Atlantic who doesn't know his name: Tintin.

Tintin is a young man known by the flaxen mop that comes to a point on the top of his bubble head. As cartoon hero, he is as familiar to Europeans as Superman is to Americans, and he has the same

pluck and invincibility. His perilous adventures have taken him from the unnamed gray cities of mid-century Europe to Shanghai, Chicago, Peru, the Balkans, the Congo - and the moon, 15 years before Americans got there.

The 22 Tintin books, by Hergé, have been translated into 56 languages and sell rather well in English, in Britain. Some 200 million copies have been sold to date, and 1.5 million French-language copies move off the shelves every year. Charles de Gaulle once expressed his jealousy that Tintin was better known in the world than he.

Associated the world over with France, Tintin is officially Belgian. This is a fitting nationality for him today, as the European Union institutions are mainly in the informal capital of Europe, Brussels, citadel

of compromise.

Tintin is neither a particularly Belgian type nor a French one.

"He's an ambassador of Europe in the world," observed Pierre Assouline, Hergé's biographer. "He represents universal values: friendship, loyalty, kindness, generosity, courage. He never shoots a gun, yet he never fails to put the bad guy out of commission."

BUT, Assouline pointed out, as a symbol of Europe or humankind, Tintin is an odd choice, and his persistent popularity in the age of Nintendo warfare is puzzling.

He is a perpetual adolescent without a discernible inner self. He wears golfing knickers most of the time. He never so much as glances at a woman, and few of them even appear in the books. His constant companion is a little white dog,

Milou (called "Snowy" in the English-language editions), with whom he can communicate telepathically.

Tintin's best friend and chronic alibi is a bearded, whiskey-swilling sailor, Capitaine Haddock. Haddock is given to too much drink and torrents of now-classic invective. But he has the virtue of owning a glorious chateau, Moulinart, on a wooded estate.

Tintin is perhaps a kept man.

Though he is ostensibly a journalist, a kind of roving reporter able to follow his nose to danger and injustice, Tintin almost never appears with pen and paper, at a typewriter, or talking to an editor.

Journalists interview him.

One of Tintin's assets as a candidate for Homo europus is that he is surrounded by a cast of characters as diverse as Europeans themselves. They represent not so much the ethnic stew of Europe - the Tintin cast is heavily, embarrassingly Nordic - as its pronounced eccentricities and follies: the raving-mad, idiot-savant Tournesol, the hapless identical detectives Dupont and Dupond, the befuddled butler Nestor, the ear-splitting diva Bianca Castaflore and every stripe of ne'er-do-well in a raincoat, a kimono, a djellaba, or a uniform. Hergé was an accomplished satirist, even though his hero was a two-dimensional goody-goody.

THE bizarre Tintin menagerie, antique though it is, still holds the European imagination. Editorial cartoons tout out Tintin the way American ones use Uncle Sam. European philosophers have plumbed the postmodern meaning of Tintin to no end. And meaning, in Europe, means politics.

Was Tintin from the left or the right? That's the question that will be debated in the august surroundings of the French National Assembly in February, thanks to the legislators' own chapter of the Tintinologists' Society.

Tintin's 70th birthday was Jan. 10 and was marked by the republication of the very first album, *Tintin in the Land of the Soviets*. It's, beyond

being a pale story compared with those that follow, a crude anti-communist yarn involving Bolshevik clowns in greatcoats. It so embarrassed Hergé and his publishers that they withdrew it from circulation in the 1930s.

Bernard Vivier, who owns a shop in the Paris Marais district that sells Tintinalia, is among the majority who are convinced Tintin was, if not a crypto-fascist, then the artistic offspring of one.

"You'd never have confessed to enjoying Tintin in '68," recalled Vivier, of the rabidly nationalist Asterix comics either. The transparently royalist Babar, of course, was beyond the pale.

Petit Vingtième, where Tintin was first serialized, was a right-wing Belgian Catholic sheet for young audiences. Tintin *au Congo*, the second album, is pure colonial paternalism. That and other albums were cleansed of incorrect details when color editions of all those then in print were printed in the 1940s and '50s: swarthy and malign Jews became swarthy and malign Europeans of indeterminate origin, black Americans became white ones.

HERGÉ was a classic "neutral" in wartime Belgium, which is to say that he went on building his profitable cartoon empire under Nazi occupation and was accused of collaboration after the war, and ever since. But even by the mid-1930s, Hergé - and thus, indirectly, Tintin - was having a revelation that would lead him to create one of his most memorable minor characters and symbols of humane values: the Chinese boy Tchang.

Introduced in *Le Lotus Bleu*, the artistic masterpiece of the Hergé oeuvre, Tchang returns in the late-career classic *Tintin in Tibet*, where Tintin rescues him again and mouths platitudes about universal brotherhood. When Tchang Tchang-jen, the real-life Hergé friend on whom Tchang was based, died in France last fall, the front-page headlines needed no explanation: "Tchang is dead."

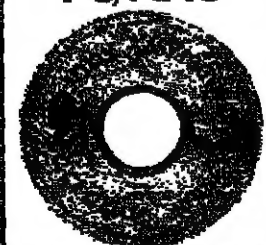
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Judy Siegel

Four arrested in plot to bomb US Embassy in India

By DONNA BRYSON

NEW DELHI (AP) — US counter-terrorism experts have arrived in India to assess what police say was a plot by Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden to bomb the US Embassy and two consular offices, an embassy spokeswoman said yesterday.

Police have arrested four people, including a Bangladeshi man accused of working for Pakistan's intelligence agency, according to newspaper reports in New Delhi.

The US Embassy in New Delhi and consulates in the southern city of Madras and the eastern city of Calcutta were targeted, according to the reports. The attacks were to have taken place before next Tuesday's national holiday marking the anniversary of India's constitution.

Security at US embassies and consulates around the world, including those in India, has been tightened following the August bombings of the US embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, which killed a total of 224 people, including 12 Americans. Washington has accused bin Laden of being behind those attacks.

A US Embassy spokeswoman said that US counter-terrorism experts from several federal agencies arrived yesterday to assess the reported plot. No other details were available.

Indian Police Minister Lal Krishna Advani has

assured the US Embassy of full government protection, the Press Trust of India reported.

In Islamabad, Zameer Akram, the senior Pakistani Foreign Ministry official for South Asia, told The Associated Press that "Indian authorities have not informed us about any arrests and we don't have any information about the case."

The ringleader of the plot was identified as Sayed Abu Nasir, 27, of Bangladesh. Nasir, said to be working for Pakistani intelligence, was arrested last week and is now in a high-security prison in New Delhi, city police chief R.N. Singh was quoted as telling The Indian Express.

He said 4 1/2 pounds of powerful explosives were recovered from Nasir at the time of his arrest at New Delhi's railroad station.

Three Indian associates of Nasir were arrested in the eastern resort of Siliguri on Sunday following Nasir's interrogation. Six others are still at large and believed to be in Madras, Singh said.

India routinely accuses neighboring Pakistan of fomenting violence through its spy agency. Pakistani denies the charges.

Pakistan backs Afghanistan's ruling Taliban army, which has given bin Laden refuge. Bin Laden, a wealthy Saudi dissident, is believed to have trained and funded an international, anti-American terrorist network.

Milosevic defiant as NATO readies strike force

BELGRADE (AP) — President Slobodan Milosevic showed no signs of backing down in Kosovo yesterday, despite NATO preparations for possible military action that included dispatching a strike force to the Adriatic Sea.

Police launched a new operation today against Kosovo rebels after Milosevic told two top NATO generals he intends to crush the ethnic Albanian rebellion regardless of threats of air strikes.

In Brussels, NATO's supreme commander Gen. Wesley Clark and German Gen. Klaus Naumann told alliance ambassadors that Milosevic showed "no flexibility" during talks in the Yugoslav capital on Tuesday.

Clark described the meeting with Milosevic as "a very blunt, direct, and forceful encounter" and said the two generals were "not surprised, but disappointed by the very obdurate position that we encountered in Belgrade."

NATO's policy-making body, the North Atlantic Council, stressed it

still wants a political solution, but began positioning strike forces.

It ordered the USS Enterprise, currently in the Aegean Sea, to take up watch in the Adriatic Sea and moved a Mediterranean naval force to Brindisi, Italy. The council also reduced the notice for carrying out air strikes from four to two days.

Despite the NATO threat, Serb police moved today into an area near Kosovska Mitrovica, 40 km north of Pristina. An Associated Press reporter who was turned back on approach to the area saw a large police presence and could hear mortar fire and gun shots.

Serb sources said police had surrounded a house where 10 to 15 rebels were believed hiding. Police demanded they surrender, but the rebels responded with bursts of automatic rifle fire.

Serb sources also reported a Serb mother and her two children were injured before dawn yesterday, when a mortar exploded on their home in a village in the same area.

One child, a 14-year-old girl, was seriously wounded.

NATO ambassadors received the grim assessment of Clark's talks during a meeting at alliance headquarters. NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said the North Atlantic Council, after taking the military steps that he described as "precautionary measures," would meet in almost continual session for the rest of this week.

Alexander Vershbow, the American ambassador to NATO, said the alliance is "on the brink" of action. Asked in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. if Milosevic still has a few days to maneuver, Vershbow said: "I wouldn't guarantee that he has even that long."

During nearly eight hours of talks on Tuesday, a defiant Milosevic showed no sign of backing down on his refusal to allow a UN war crimes court to investigate last week's massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians in the Kosovo village of Racak.

As a result, Louise Arbour, the chief war crimes prosecutor, is abandoning her effort to enter Kosovo to investigate the massacre. Arbour, who had tried to enter the Serbian province from neighboring Macedonia, said she is returning to The Hague.

Milosevic defended actions by Serb security forces, such as the attack on Racak, saying they "cannot be qualified as an attack on civilians." In a statement distributed by the Yugoslavia's Tanjug news agency, Milosevic said his government remains committed to a political solution. But he said the government has a "legitimate right to fight against terrorism. That right cannot be taken away from our country by any pressure from the outside," he added.

Tanjug identified one of the women killed in Racak as a "daughter of the leader of terrorists" in the village. Tanjug said the woman, who was not named, was "actively involved" in the rebel movement.

UK court asks when government recognized Pinochet

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's top court yesterday asked the Foreign Office when it considered Augusto Pinochet had become Chilean head of state — a question that could decide whether he faces trial for alleged crimes during his rule.

Pinochet's lawyers argue that he is immune from prosecution under British law because he is a former head of state, and so should not be extradited to Spain, which wants to try him for the torture and murder of thousands between 1973 and 1990.

But lawyers seeking Pinochet's extradition to Spain claimed in a rehearing of the case before Britain's Law Lords which began on Monday that he ordered some of the crimes, such as torture of political enemies, before he became head of state.

They argue that while the general seized power in Chile as part of a military junta in September 1973, he did not assume the post of head of state until June 1974 at the earliest.

Their case does not rest entirely on this argument, however.

Christopher Greenwood, one of the lawyers representing Spain, said yesterday that torture was an offence under international law for which there was no immunity, even for a head of state.

Britain's Law Lords, the country's highest court which is deliberating Pinochet's fate for the second time in three months, ordered a letter sent to the Foreign Office yesterday asking when it had officially recognized Pinochet as head of state.

"I hope it [the letter] can go out as quickly as possible," Lord Browne-Wilkinson, head of the

seven-judge panel, told lawyers for both sides after approving a draft text they had crafted together.

A Foreign Office spokesman declined to comment on the question, saying it would provide its answer to the court.

Lawyers for Spain say that large numbers of people were abducted, tortured and murdered in Chile on September 11, 1973, the day a military junta seized power from former Chilean President Salvador Allende and before Pinochet had even been named head of the junta.

"The repression was at its fiercest in 1973 and 1974, but the conspiracy continued for several years," they said in court papers presented this week.

"The conspiracy was implemented in Chile and abroad against innumerable victims, of whom

about four thousand were murdered."

Pinochet, who is now living under house arrest in a mansion outside London, was arrested in a London hospital in October at Spain's request.

In November, a panel of five Law Lords ruled by three to two that the 83-year-old general did not have immunity from prosecution in Britain and extradition proceedings began.

But the judgement was set aside after it emerged that one of the five, Lord Hoffmann, was chairman of the charity arm of Amnesty International, which had been allowed to make legal submissions.

Seven fresh Law Lords are sitting at the rehearing, in a crowded courtroom at Britain's Houses of Parliament.

Bush shows reservations over 2000 bid

TEXAS (AP) — Texas governor George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, said today they are worried that a White House bid would be "a major life change."

A day after being sworn in for a second four-year term, the potential Republican presidential candidate also said he has done nothing in his personal life that would hurt him in a national campaign.

"If I had done anything in the past that would have disqualified me for being in public office, you'd have found it," he told state and national reporters gathered in the governor's mansion.

"When I put my hand on the bible and was sworn to uphold the laws of the land of the state, I also implicitly said I'd uphold the dignity of the office I was elected to, and I have done so," he said.

Bush and his wife sat behind a small wooden table, facing dozens of television cameras, photographers, and reporters. Bush has said he is interested in running for president, but would weigh his family's concerns.

"I'm reluctant, absolutely," about the prospect of being part of a national campaign, Laura Bush said. "I just think it's a major life change and we have a very nice life in Texas."

Their twin 17-year-old daughters are also reluctant, the Bushes said.

"Our daughters are normal," the governor said. "They don't want to be put through the meat grinder of national politics. I understand that."

Still, Bush sounded every bit like a man prepared to take the plunge.

He said he may form a presidential exploratory committee before making a final decision about whether to run.

"Should I choose not to run for president, I understand the window would probably close," he said.

He added that he will continue to meet with national Republican leaders and donors to help him make an "informed decision."

Bush said he wasn't worried about critics such as Lamar Alexander, a likely Republican candidate, who has denounced Bush for calling himself a "compassionate conservative."

Why not just call yourself a conservative, with no modifiers?

OK, Bush said with a grin, "I'm a conservative."

Russia to study US nuclear aid proposal

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov gave a cautious welcome yesterday to a proposal by President Bill Clinton to increase US aid for maintaining the security of Moscow's nuclear capabilities.

"We are ready to study the proposals attentively," Ivanov told a joint news conference with visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon.

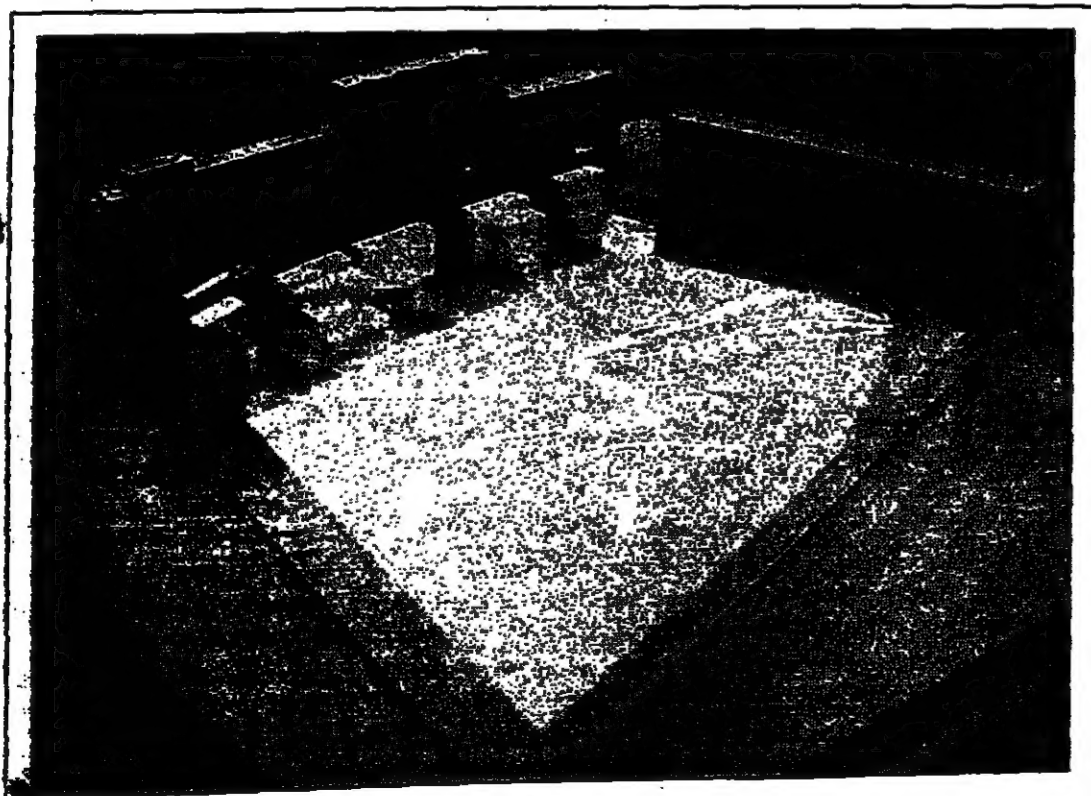
Ivanov's reply follows Clinton's proposal during the annual State of the Union speech to Congress on Tuesday, where he proposed that the United States increase the amount of money spent to safeguard nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union by about two thirds.

Ivanov added that "Russia is firmly against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction..."

Where questions linked to our cooperation in such spheres arise, we are ready for constructive discussions. Where doubts arise, we must try to find appropriate solutions."

Ivanov, who earlier discussed Iran and other Middle East issues with Sharon, said he would hold more detailed talks on the issue of non-proliferation with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright during her visit to Moscow next week.

Last week Washington imposed sanctions on three Russian scientific institutes, accusing them of helping Iran's nuclear and missile programs. It also threatened to limit launches of US satellites aboard Russian rockets unless Moscow halted its alleged cooperation with Iran. Russia denies the US charges.



Latest Berlin Holocaust memorial plan

The newest version of the future Berlin Holocaust memorial, made by Peter Eisenmann, was introduced to the press in the Bonn parliament yesterday. (AP)

Romania orders police to stop miners' march

COSTESTI, Romania (Reuters) — Thousands of Romanian police in full riot gear were deployed yesterday in hills north of Bucharest, with orders to stop a march by 10,000 striking miners who want to take their protest to the capital.

Reporters at the scene said up to 3,500 helmeted police, with gas tanks, tear gas grenade launchers and shields were missed in a ravine near the village of Costesti, trying to bar the miners' route.

Central government authorities have ordered the troops to prevent

the convoy of thousands of miners, advancing in buses and trucks, from reaching their next objective — the industrial town of Rimnicu Vilcea, 175 kilometers north of Bucharest.

President Emil Constantinescu said Tuesday he was calling an extraordinary session of the two-house parliament, seeking to defuse the two-week-old crisis which has pitted the miners against the centrist coalition government.

"Given the attempt to transform the Jiu Valley miners' strike into a political confrontation and the

danger which this relapse into the politics of force poses to the rule of law," the president called the assembly to reconvene from winter recess, a statement from Constantinescu's office said.

The miners, led by their militant union leader Miron Cozma, are opposed to market reforms involving pit closures.

They wreaked havoc in Bucharest on previous rampages in the early 1990s, when they beat up students, bludgeoned the city's residents and ransacked democratic party headquarters.



New princess charming

Sophie Rhys-Jones arrives with flowers at her office in central London yesterday, on her 34th birthday. Rhys-Jones is to marry Britain's Prince Edward later this year. (AP)

US Justice Department tobacco suit may seek billions

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — A lawsuit being prepared by the Justice Department against cigarette companies could seek damages in the hundreds of billions of dollars, senior Clinton administration officials said yesterday.

"The potential liability is certainly in the hundreds of billions of dollars," said one senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The potential liability in this

area is unprecedented and this litigation is unprecedented," the official said.

The officials said a team of Justice Department lawyers was working on the lawsuit but would not predict when the lawsuit would be filed. "The litigation is serious and the department will go forward," said one official.

Clinton announced plans for the lawsuit in his State of the Union

speech on Tuesday night, saying that smoking had cost taxpayers "hundreds of billions of dollars" as sick smokers sought treatment under Medicare and other federal programs.

Separately, they said Clinton again would seek anti-smoking legislation this year to force the industry to take steps to reduce youth smoking. Legislation failed to pass Congress last year.

Report: Drop minorities angle in cancer study

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists studying why some minorities are more prone to certain types of cancer should focus on regional and ethnic groups rather than the current four broad racial categories, the Institute of Medicine said yesterday.

Studying cancer rates among smaller groups is termed "special populations" will allow researchers to more accurately measure the impact of such things as "cultural and behavioral factors, beliefs, lifestyle patterns, diet, environmental living conditions, and other factors," said the institute, which advises the government on health issues.

At the same time, the report called on the National Institutes of Health to increase its efforts to determine why minorities are more prone to develop and die from certain types of cancer.

Studies have found that black men have unusually high rates of prostate cancer, for example, while Asians are more likely to develop stomach and liver cancer than whites are.

Studies also have found that cervical cancer is higher among Hispanic and Vietnamese-American women and that Alaska natives have high rates of colon and rectal cancer.

Catskills hotel auctioned off for \$10.25m.

KLAMESHA LAKE, NY (AP) — The Concord Hotel — the largest of the Catskills' famed "Borscht Belt" hotels — has been auctioned off for \$10.25 million.

The investment group Concord Associates LLP made the bid during a federal bankruptcy auction Tuesday, said Sullivan County Manager Jonathan Drapkin.

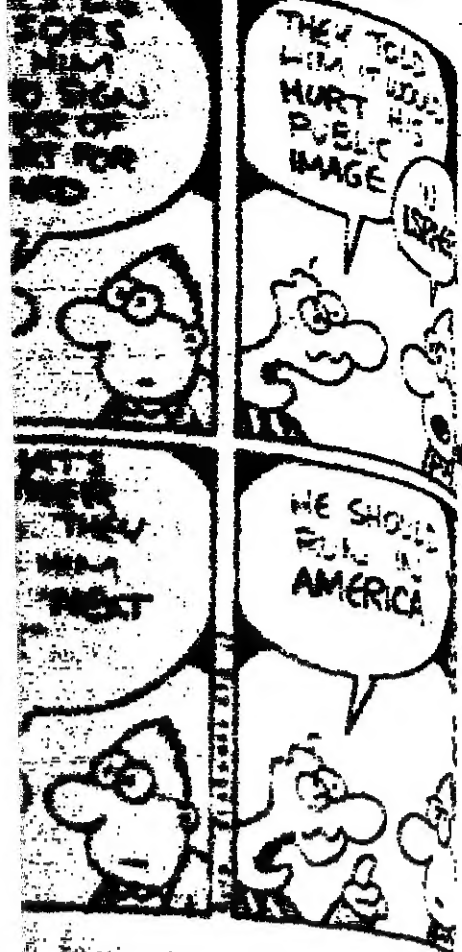
The Concord closed its doors in November after operating under Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings for more than a year. Like many other upstate New York hotels, the Concord's heyday was in the 1920s and '30s when thousands of tourists visited the area.

With 1,220 rooms, a 2,000-seat dining area, 40 tennis courts and

three swimming pools, the Concord, about 75 miles north of New York City, was also a testing ground for dozens of comedians and crooners.

The new investors, headed by New York City real estate developer Joseph Murphy, intend to run the Concord as a modern hotel, said Glen Pontier, a spokesman for Sullivan County.

Dry Bones



THEY TOLD HIM TO MURDER HIS PUBLIC IMAGE

WE SHOULD BE IN AMERICA

Guidelines

THEY TOLD HIM TO MURDER HIS PUBLIC IMAGE

WE SHOULD BE IN AMERICA

bile

Weekender

A chorus to crown Cate

By DOUGLAS ROWE

A chorus is calling for Cate Blanchett's coronation. An Oscar buzz surrounds her performance as Elizabeth, and she has a Golden Globes nomination for Best Actress. Co-star Geoffrey Rush admires her "chameleon" quality. And the film's director, Julian Jarrold, likens her to a queen.

Yet Blanchett, who indeed has displayed protean looks and redoubtable talents in her movies, expresses doubts about her career. "I got a very ambivalent relationship to acting," she says. "I'm not sure I'm doing it for the right reasons."

The 29-year-old Australian studied fine arts and economics at Melbourne University before deciding she'd give drama school a try. "I'll give it five years out of school and see if I'm getting work and if I'm not then there's plenty of other people out there to do it."

She still characterizes her commitment to acting as "a sort of day-by-month thing."

She says she has had full experiences both in the theater in Sydney, where she still makes her home, and in the few film jobs that she's had.

"If I'm lucky enough for that run of luck to continue, then I'll keep doing it." But she wouldn't want to do something for the sake of doing it.

"It's like being involved in a relationship with someone you don't feel love for. What's the point? What are either of you getting out of it? There's people out there who are passionate about things."

Blanchett made her feature film debut last year in Bruce Beresford's little-seen, much-praised *Paradise Road*, about a Japanese POW camp for women during World War II, co-starring with Close and Frances Conroy. Next came *Thank God We're in the Army Now*. (During the production, she met her husband, Andrew Upton, a continuity editor and second-unit director.)

Opposite Ralph Fiennes in *The English Patient*, she played a headstrong 19th-century heiress who loves to gamble.

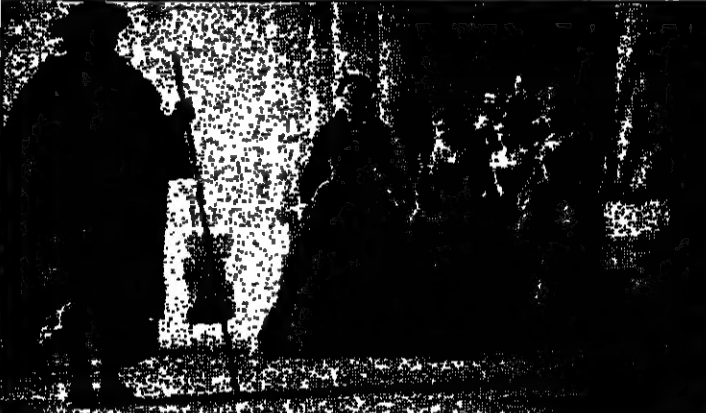
One similarity between Lucinda and England's Queen Elizabeth I, Blanchett says, is that both were "fiercely and beautifully determined (one in literature and one in history) and both are larger than life."

"I prefer to do things that are bigger than me, to be part of something that's bigger than me rather than reducing everything down all the time," she says.

Blanchett says Jarrold's involvement as director persuaded her to take on *Elizabeth*. She liked the Indian director's best-known film, *Bandit Queen*, and felt that with



Cate Blanchett at her coronation and receiving an ambassador (below) in the title role of 'Elizabeth' for which she is a favorite to win a Golden Globe and a nod for the Oscars. Blanchett (below right) in 'Paradise Road.'



him on board "it wouldn't be this sort of standard biopic."

SHE did a lot of research, reading the so-called Virgin Queen's letters and delving into various biographies and historical accounts, including a book her husband gave her. But that only carries you so far, she says. "Because in the end, you have to let that go. All you can do at the end of the day is play the scene, and work with the other actors."

Blanchett talks about how the film explores "the exorcism of personal needs and desires in order to rule," since Elizabeth forsake her personal life to solidify her power.

And what has she given up? "Stability, security," she says, laughing.

Married about 18 months ago, she has been unable to spend all of that time with her new husband, but she has no regrets. "I'm not a great believer in regret, and fortunately neither is my husband."

"It's a constant negotiation," she says, adding that unlike Elizabeth, she has a partner who is willing to compromise, and she's willing to compromise, too. "You just have to be very careful, I think."

She smiles and becomes monosyllabic when answering questions about her background, briefly saying that she has two siblings, her mother lives in Australia and her father died when she was 10.

Despite protestations about privacy, Blanchett will be highly visible to the public for some time to come. Next year, she plans to star in a revival of David Hare's *Plenty* in



London, and she'll be making two more films - an adaptation of the Oscar Wilde play, *An Ideal Husband*, with Rupert Everett, Gabriel Byrne and Minnie Driver, and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, directed by Anthony Minghella, who made the multiple Academy Award-winning *The English Patient*.

Blanchett has completed shooting for Mike Newell's *Pushing Tin*, which Newell describes as "a Love Lucy on acid."

Being cast as a Long Island housewife, Blanchett says, "means that the experience will be liberating because the director's not asking you to repeat a performance. So it's encouragement to sort of stretch your wings, which is great, and I relish those opportunities."

Elizabeth has received three Golden Globe nominations and Blanchett is up for Best Actress. (AP)

Dancing brings out the spirit of 'Ally McBeal'

By FRANCES GRANDY TAYLOR

Every time you turn around, they're dancing on *Ally McBeal*. Sometimes it's everyone, sometimes it's just Ally. And, of course, there's that dancing baby.

Not that Ally is an especially good dancer. Her movements are nondescript and energetic, though she does occasionally score points for originality. So what's going on?

Ally's free-spirited dancing is unexpected and for the most part unchoreographed, said one of the show's producers. And regardless of what others may think, fans of the show love Ally's dancing as much as anything else about her.

In the *Ally McBeal* forum on the Fox Network Web site, fans recently discussed dancing in response to a query.

"Ally McBeal's dancing is an integral part of the show. Who could ever forget Ally and the baby dancing scenes? As for everybody else dancing, great. The more the merrier," said "Flash."

"The show's quirkiness comes from such happenings."

Allen Goldman agrees. "I like to see her moving around. She's kind of wacky, and she moves well." And dancing, he notes, is just one

ingredient in the show's character. "There was one episode where she was dancing in the street. All sorts of wacky things are always going on."

Songs by singer Vonda Shepard are part of the show's soundtrack, and dancing sequences are the offshoot of that, said Steve Robin, an *Ally McBeal* producer. Each of the main characters has a theme song.

"The songs illustrate the high points and low points to people's days," Robin said. Ally's theme song is *Tell Me*, which she plays and dances to get herself going, often alone in her room or apartment.

"Whatever dancing Ally does, it's [across] Calista [Flockhart]," Robin said. "We just go with her instincts. She knows what Ally would do."

ALLY'S not the only character on the show dancing with herself. John "The Biscuit" Cage, Ally's colleague played by Peter MacNicol, does his moves to songs by Barry White. "It's his way of readying himself for battle, for whatever he has to face," Robin said.

Then there are the Dancing Twins, whom Ally generally bumps into at the nightclub. The identically dressed pair started out

as extras and have become regular bit players. The twins, who choreograph all their own '70s-style moves, are played by Eric and Steve Cohen.

The only choreographed dance sequence on the show was the "Wedding Bell Blues" musical number, during one of Ally's dream sequences. It had everyone in the office dancing, with a chorus line that led into the law firm's unisex bathroom.

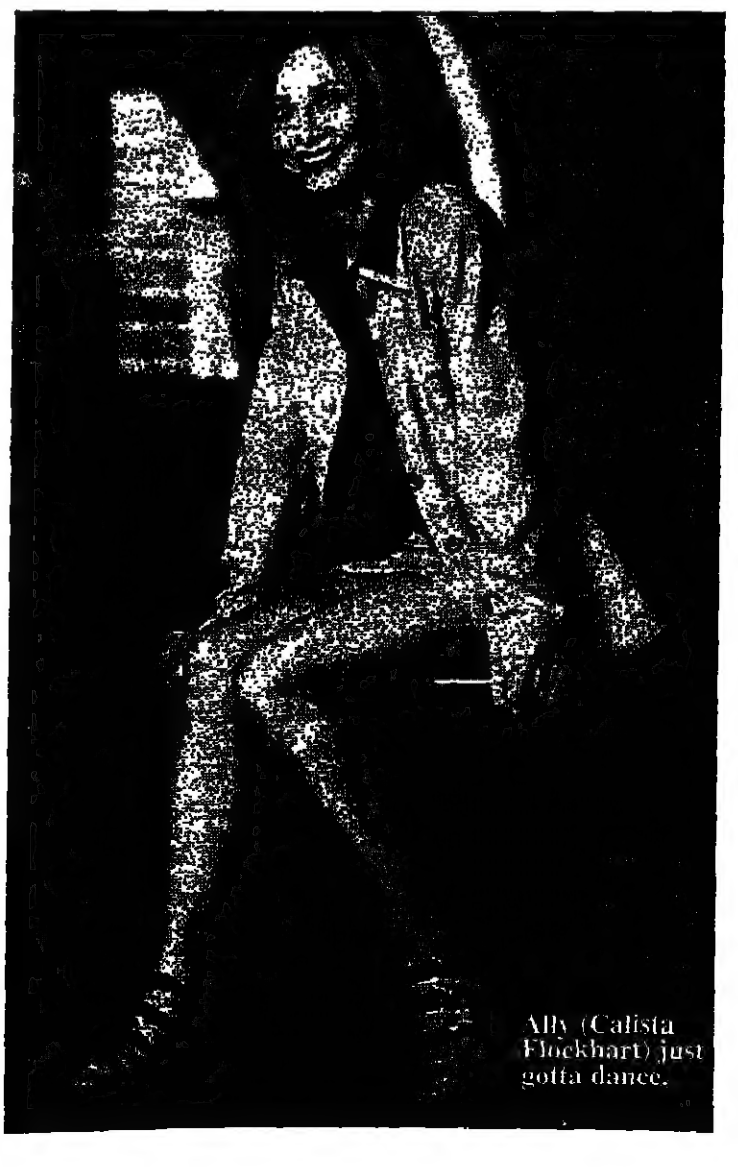
Ginny McNamara, a competitive ballroom dancer, has occasionally watched Ally and her dancing. Ally isn't the world's greatest dancer, but that's not really the point, McNamara said.

"It's self-expression. You're not conforming to any step or pattern; you're just doing what the body feels."

The reason people like Ally "is that she is an impulsive, let-it-all-hang-out kind of free spirit that a lot of us would like to be," McNamara said. But this kind of dancing, "is like singing in the shower. You don't necessarily want anyone else to see it."

Ally McBeal is shown on Channel 2, Thursdays at 10:45 p.m. (The Hartford Courant)

"Hot Tips" will resume next week.



Ally (Calista Flockhart) just gotta dance.

Neatly packaged fun

By SONIE LEMOR

Lilienblum 14 opened last week in the Tel Aviv neighborhood of Florentine, which is starting to rival Allenby street as the city's playground. On the Florentine end of Lilienblum Street alone there are at least two or three new places to go at night.

Lilienblum 14 is a rather small and intimate place. It feels almost like a living room in someone's home, or rather, in some young person's rented flat. The entrance is deceptively impressive because of the staircase you have to climb to get to the pub, but the interior isn't grand. There are two very small patios, one on either side of the staircase, each with a small table. It is best to sit with your back to the wall, not to the street.

Lilienblum boasts an art-deco purple metal, glass, and stone sliding door. Inside, on the left is a sort of mini-shrine to singer Arik Einstein, a close friend of the owner, with photos dated to way-back-when along with more recent ones. A wooden bar runs most of the length of the place.

Lilienblum's bar is adequate, with most of the popular whiskeys, vodkas, flavored vodkas and such, and comes complete with the obligatory model-type bartender (who was definitely hired for his looks).

The bar itself is very comfortable; there is a lot of seating but it retains an intimate atmosphere. Since the bar takes up most of the room, there are only about four or five tables. Three of these tables line the back wall; they are pleasant to sit at and ogle the other patrons.

The rest rooms are between the bar and the tables, are rather like those of an army base and require vast improvement. This reporter's advice is to wait till you get home.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, its almost improvised decor, Lilienblum will probably be quite a hit with spoiled, bored Tel Avivians who are looking for a new style of fun. The atmosphere is very friendly and although Lilienblum 14 will probably not be your average "see-and-be-seen place," some of the local Who's Who may adopt it as one of their haunts.

At the 30 or so guests at the opening party were singer-songwriter Arik Einstein, singer-songwriter Izik Klepter, actress Dalit Cahan, actor Danny Steig, and singer Dafna Armon. The other patrons were lovely folk in their late 20s to their early 40s.

Lilienblum's music was unremarkable, but comfortable, with a party sort of feel. During the early hours, the music is relatively tame, but later on it heats up. Patrons don't really get up and dance but they do hop from table to table saying their hellos.

As for food, the menu at Lilienblum is not quite set, since they just opened last Friday, but they seem to have a capable kitchen that is at least as big as the pub itself. At the opening party Chef Carlo paraded around passing out his specialty, spaghetti in a hot and spicy tomato and olive-oil sauce, not to be missed. They also have some interesting vegetarian sandwiches, with zucchini and something unidentifiable but tasty, on a fresh baked bread. Prices are reasonable.

"Tel Aviv needs more of this sort of place," says actress Adi Ron. "I feel very at home here and I like the atmosphere. I feel like I can hang out here and just be me, you know? No one here expects anything else."

Ordinary patrons can enjoy Lilienblum 14 just as much. This is a great anything-goes-for-all-ages place.

Lilienblum 14, 14 Lilienblum Street, Florentine, Tel Aviv.

Music on my mind

Clarinetist Albert Piamenta trawls musical cultures to create the sounds he loves

Albert Piamenta is an internationally known jazzman who is deeply rooted in the Middle East. With an engaging smile, Piamenta relates how he discovered jazz and ethnic music after his family came to Israel from Tunis in 1950.

"We had a big radio which took five minutes to warm up after you turned it on, and then I would 'surf' the stations. Among the frequencies I found a Dixieland jazz station. The music sounded like a mess with everybody improvising at the same time."

"When I moved the radio dial a millimeter, I found Sudanese music. It and Dixieland opened up a new world of jazz and world music for me."



based on intricate Iraqi rhythms and fluctuating pulses.

- Classical Egyptian music**
"The kind of music I am talking about is called 'Mewashahat' and is very ancient. I especially like the type called 'Samai'. It is very slow and beautiful, and is played by ensembles that include an oud, a kanun [a zither-like instrument], a nay [a reed flute], a violin, and percussion. When I play in concerts, I ask the audience to clap their hands in patterns of threes and twos while I play the syncopated melody. It is very beautiful."
- Bulgarian music**
"This music is very interesting. It is very happy and sad at the same time - kind of like eating ice cream and coffee together. It has an irregular pulse and a lot of improvisation. It is usually played by a clarinet, an accordion, a violin, and the Bulgarian flute called kaval. The music is extraordinary. You must hear it."
- Sudanese music**
"This kind of music is based on the five-tone pentatonic scale and sounds like jazz, without the 'blue note.' This music so entranced me that I collected 15 of its tunes and compiled them in a book."
- Yemenite music**
"When I think of Yemenite music, I think of singing without traditional instruments. Rhythm is the forte of this musical people. They create percussion instruments from very ordinary items. Some of their most important instruments are big cans which once held olives or pickles. They turn these into drums, and tap glass bottles with the rings on their fingers, to form a unique, pulsating foundation for their songs."

-Sarah Hershenson

Weekender Food & Drink Perfecting candied peel

By RUSS PARSONS

There is only one kind of candy I make, and that's candied citrus peel. The reason is simple: Although I've never had homemade chocolate that came close to the best imported brands, I've never had commercial candied citrus peel that matched homemade.

Perfect candied peel is fragrant with ripe citrus and just sweet enough to make you forget you're eating what is essentially something so bitter that you'd normally spit it out.

After spending a couple of weeks running through various recipes, I think I've come up with a method that gives the best of this balance and does it without a long process.

Usually, before beginning the actual candying, you temper the bitterness in citrus peel with either a long soak in cold water or repeated blanchings in boiling water. You then cook the peel in sugar syrup until it turns translucent and finally you roll it in sugar and dry it.

Triple-blanching is much faster than the slow soaking; you're done in about half an hour, depending on how much peel you're working with.

But does it affect the flavor? I tried both methods side by side and decided they make equally good peel, provided you manage the blanching carefully, draining the peel as soon as the water comes to a boil. Too long at the boil and the peel loses its edge.

Not that this careful attention makes much difference in most recipes. After the long cooking in sugar syrup that is required to candy the peel, most of the lively citrus flavor is gone anyway.

But there's a neat wrinkle in the candied-peel recipe in Giuliano Bugialli's *The Fine Art of Italian Cooking*.

Instead of cooking the peel in sugar syrup, he simmers it for 10 minutes in plain water. Then he pours hot sugar syrup over the peel and leaves it at room temperature for an hour to candy gently.

Peel candied this way has the fresh citrus edge I was missing in other recipes. And that edge remains even after triple-blanching, rather than the eight-hour cold-soaking Bugialli calls for (changing the water every hour).

THE biggest drawback to my adaptation of Bugialli's recipe was the way the sugar clumped clumsily on the peel after the candying. It was just too wet. That problem disappeared when I followed food writer David Karp's suggestion of drying the peel in a warm oven before rolling it in sugar. Warm the oven and put in the peel on its rack.

Turn the oven off and leave the door open. I found that half an hour works about right for orange and lemon peel. Pomelo, with its extremely thick peel, takes a full hour.

Once you've rolled the peel in the sugar, you'll need to dry it again. Simply return it to the cooling rack (placed over a shallow pan; cooked sugar is tough on tabletops) and leave it at room temperature. It's best to shoot for a single layer of peel to avoid wet spots.

But if the peel overlaps and sticks together, don't worry. Just return it to the bowl of sugar and give it a good shake. Candied peel is remarkably tough stuff. You can even pull stuck-together pieces apart with your fingers with minimal breakage.

You can leave the peel like this for a couple of days, nibbling every once in a while to determine when it's reached the perfect texture. Because of the way sugar pulls moisture from anything it touches, the peel will continue to get harder as it sits out.

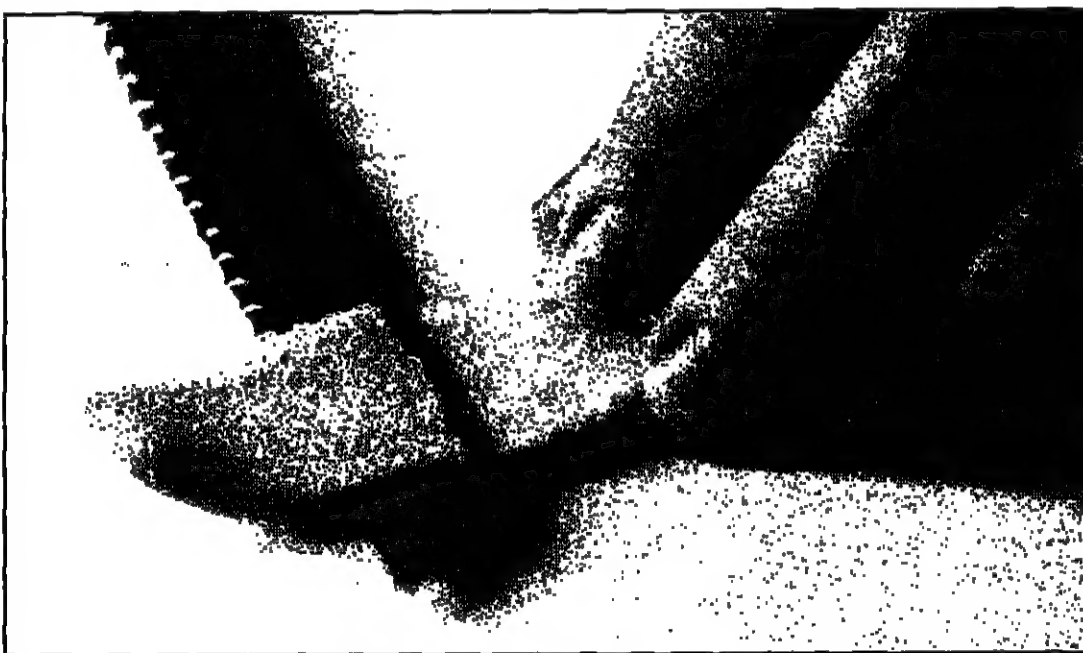
When it's just right, seal it in an airtight container. It will continue to dry, but much more slowly. Odds are, it'll be eaten before it's too tough.

THERE'S another useful trick in Claudia Roden's *Book of Jewish Food*. She waits to remove the pith from the peel until after the peels have been softened by soaking (she uses a cold soak, if we're



Cut peel in 5 cm. wide sections.

(Photos: Los Angeles Times)



Use flexible knife to remove pith.



Toss candied peel with sugar.

just the same as blanching). This makes the removal much easier. By the time the blanching is done, the once-tough, sticky white stuff is spongy and soft enough that you could practically scrape it off with a spoon.

As far as the peel is concerned, it doesn't matter whether you've peeled the fruit just for the peel or if it comes from rinds of juice or table oranges.

Roden's book has a lovely description of her mother and father hoarding their citrus rinds every winter in a big bag until they had enough to candy. I now have a similar bag in my refrigerator.

If you peel the fruit just to make candy, slice the fruit in cross-sections afterward and pour the citrus-infused candying syrup over it. These slices are great with toast at breakfast or with a sugar cookie for dessert.

The candied peel itself makes a lovely addition to a cookie plate.

is to be served after dessert with coffee, alongside some good chocolate - purchased, of course.

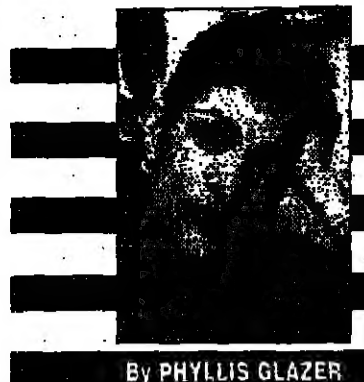
CANDIED CITRUS PEEL
2 kilos citrus fruit
Water
Sugar

Score peel of citrus fruit in sections 5 cm. wide, cutting through peel but not through fruit. Using fingers, peel fruit, carefully running your thumb between the peel and fruit to separate.

Pith will remain attached to peel. Reserve fruit for another use.

Put peel in saucepan and cover with water. Bring to boil, drain and rinse briefly under cold water. Blanch in same manner twice more.

After third blanching, drain peels, rinse under cold water and, using thin, sharp knife, remove as much pith as possible. You should



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis' Tips

that?) for NIS 13.90. Adults can eat there for around NIS 25-30 a person. They're open from 11 to midnight Monday through Thursday, Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Shabbat from 5 p.m. to midnight. For information, call (03) 691-1436.

Martini (Good)
That famous Martini, the one from the Hollywood pictures and swank events - has been around since, believe it or not, 1863. Made from mixed Italian wines with the addition of aromatic extracts, the secret formula has been passed down for generations. Since that time, so many companies have tried to copy it, the original company has decided to re-do its bottle, so as to make it more prominent than ever. The bottle sells for NIS 50.

Almost Cheese Cake (Not Bad)
Vita, which manufactures Rich products, has just started distributing cheese cakes made with a layer of sponge cake on the bottom and a low-fat cheese filling on top. You can store them for up to three weeks in the refrigerator. Although they are not totally natural (and nothing like real New York style cheesecakes), the flavor is not bad at all. I would not buy it, but it's better than a lot of other ready-made cakes. NIS 27.40 for 500 gr.

Traditional English tea (Excellent)
Although most tea-bag tea is a far cry from a cup of real brewed

tea, President's Choice Traditional English Tea is simply superb. From the time you open the package, the sweet scent of rich tea will entice you, and one tea bag is good for two cups of dark brewed tea, just as the English like it. The flavor - well, I'm addicted. Available only at Greenberg's supermarket chain. A box of 216 tea bags (681 gr.) is NIS 29.95. A box of 144 tea bags (454 gr.) is NIS 20.95, and a box of 72 bags (227 gr.) sells for NIS 19.45. Also available - President's Choice herb teas based on lemon, raspberry, chamomile or mint (24 tea bags NIS 9.95).

Dietetic Chocolate (Good)
Vered Hagall has just released the "Perfect" filled chocolate bar, and a pure sugarless milk chocolate bar with no sugar, sweetened with aspartame and other artificial sweeteners. The target audience is primarily diabetics of which there are 400,000 in Israel!

Sugarless "Perfect" sells for NIS 3.85 for 45 gr. and the 100-gr. milk chocolate bar sells for NIS 6.85. Both are good but not recommended for those who don't need it. Better to cut down on sugar than consume artificial sweeteners.

No more relish!!!
Please readers, no more ideas for where to get, buy or make sweet pickle relish. I don't even like sweet pickle relish. It's the last for a while - Ruth Tarlet of Tel Aviv writes that you can order the relish by calling tel. (03) 9932054.

Back

By PHYLLIS GLAZER

I received a recipe from a friend in the UK that calls for kidney and pinto beans, black-eyed peas, walnut oil, dill, curry powder, salt and pepper. What are these beans called in Hebrew, and what do they look like? What quantities of the ingredients are needed and could canned beans be used?

Miriam Lewin, Jerusalem
Kidney beans are *shu'et adama*, pinto beans are called *shu'et meluspet*. Black-eyed peas are a type of white bean with a "black eye." In Hebrew they're called *shu'et levana im ayin shehora*.

Uncooked red kidney beans are easy to find, and now they are imported cooked and canned by Heinz. The other two types you'll have to cook yourself. The black-eyed peas are often found at health-food stores, and pinto beans are most frequently found in the souk.

I'm surprised that you ask for the quantity of ingredients if you have a recipe! It sounds like a salad to me, and I assume it would contain equal quantities of the beans, dressed with walnut oil and seasoned with curry powder, salt and pepper and fresh dill to taste.

I am always puzzled by the fact that when giving recipes for soup, you never suggest using a pressure cooker. Is there some reason for this? It would appear to me that pressure cookers have disappeared from the list of cooking accoutrements used these days.
Ruth Greenman, Moshav Orot

The truth is that I've never in my life used a pressure cooker, and there wasn't one in the home that I grew up in. Just the few stories I heard about beans getting stuck in them or food exploding all over the kitchen were enough to scare me.

I was recently given a present of a pressure cooker by Soltam, but I'm still a little wary about using it. One day when I'm feeling adventurous, I promise to try it, and let readers in on the results.

READER'S TIP: Linda E. Falchowitz, Oshana, has a tip for chopping onions without crying. She suggests: "Peel and chop the onions at the sink while the cold water is constantly running near by. It works every time."

I'd add, since we're low on water this year, have the running water fill a pot; and use the water as a basis for soup or soaking beans or rinsing greens.

The art of making cocktails

By JOHN THOR DAHLBURG

There's a passion in Italy for cocktails, that high form of the bartender's art intended to seduce both the palate and the eye. And few are more devoted to the form than Gino Riso, the bartender owner of Caffè Roma, a wine bar in the town of Costigliole d'Asti.

Riso is known internationally by cocktail lovers, though he protests that his fame has nothing to do with his talents behind the bar but instead from the presence of a cooking school in the local castle where Americans, Japanese and other foreigners flock to learn Italian cuisine. In the evenings, many of the budding chefs enrolled at the Italian Culinary Institute for Foreigners repair to the Caffè Roma, which Riso has owned since 1984, for a break and perhaps a Negroni, one of northern Italy's most popular cocktails.

At the recent food-and-wine festival organized by the Slow Food Movement and held in Turin, Riso shared some of his cocktail-mixing expertise for an even larger international audience.

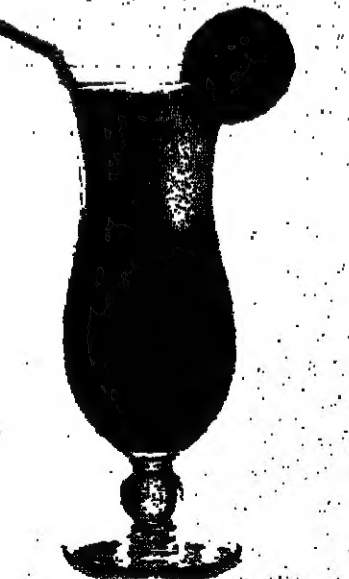
One of his goals was to promote his home region of northwestern Italy. Its truffles, cheeses, bread sticks, chocolates and other gastronomic delights have carried the name of Piedmont - "Piemonte" in Italian - throughout the world. On the region's hills, growers tend some of the country's most prized grape varieties: Barolo, Barbaresco, Dolcetto. And sweet vermouth, Italy's famous herb-infused aperitif, as well as Asti Spumante, its best-known sparkling wine, also are local products.

"For uninhibited exploration of the varieties of grape juice and what can be made of them," world-famous British wine expert Hugh Johnson has said, "no part of Europe can compare with Piedmont."

Specially for the Los Angeles Times, Riso drew up a plan for a cocktail party that is Piedmontese in food and drink but uses ingredi-

ents available in the US. Many of the hors d'oeuvres, especially the stuffed olives, would be excellent small bites to offer during gatherings.

The fixings range from blue-veined Gorgonzola, known as the king of Italian cheeses, to Americano Cocchi, a white wine aromatized with herbs and spices that has been produced without interruption since 1891 in the town of Asti, eight miles from Riso's cafe.



THE COCKTAILS

THE NEGRONI
3 part gin
1 part red vermouth
1 part Campari
Angostura bitters
1 orange slice per glass
Mix gin, vermouth and Campari, then add bitters to taste. Pour into Old Fashioned glass and float orange slice.

SEPTEMBER IMPRESSIONS
(Impressioni di Settembre)
3 parts Moscato d'Asti or Asti Spumante
1 part vodka
1 part dry white vermouth

1 lemon slice per glass
Mix wine, vodka and vermouth. Serve in champagne coupe glass and garnish with lemon slice.

IL BARBERINO
1 part vodka
1 part apricot brandy
3 parts Barbera d'Asti or similar dry red wine
1 orange slice per glass
Mix vodka, brandy and wine. Serve in champagne coupe glass and garnish with orange slice.

THE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY
(Il Bel Paes)
1 part vodka
1 part peach syrup
3 parts Grignolino d'Asti or dry rose
3 drops Angostura bitters
Lemon rind
Mix vodka, peach syrup, wine and bitters to taste. Garnish with curl of lemon rind.
Other possible drinks: Asti Spumante, Champagne, Spanish Sherry.

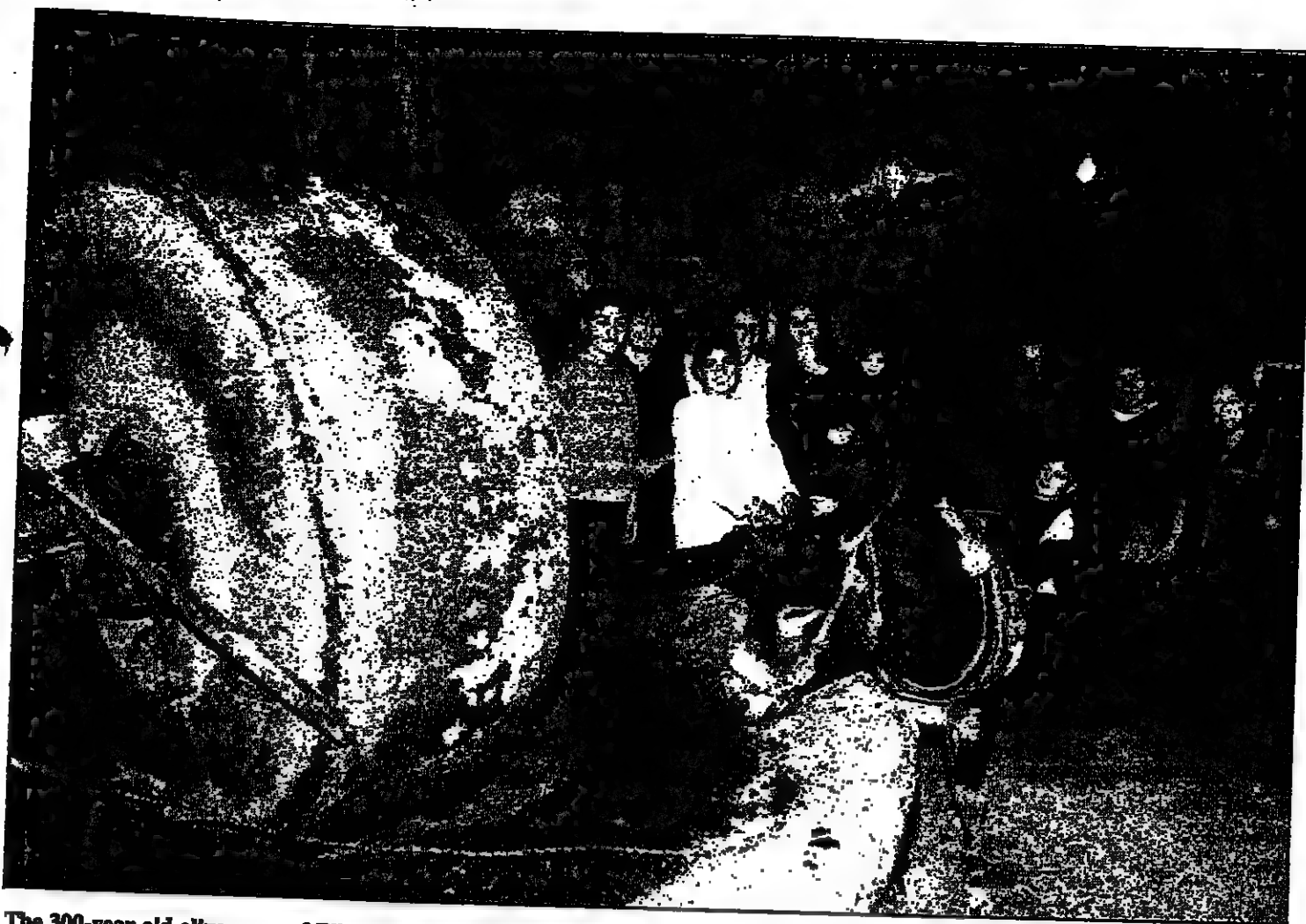
THE APPETIZERS
ELECTRIC TOMINI
(Tomini Elettrici)
Tomino is a fresh cheese made from cow's milk, available in most Italian delicatessens. Try a fresh, creamy goat cheese as a substitute.
Place sliced cheese on small toast squares, sprinkle with extra-virgin olive oil, oregano and small rounds of hot red pepper (hence the name "electric").

TORTINI AL GORGONZOLA
Serve Gorgonzola cheese slices on small toast squares that are still warm.

ROBIOLA DI ROCCAVERANO
Robiola is a rich, mild cheese made from goat's milk, sometimes blended with cow's or sheep's milk. Use a Brie if you can't find it. Use good quality oil, because oil provides most of the flavor.
Place slices on toasted white bread; sprinkle with extra-virgin olive oil.

(Los Angeles Times)

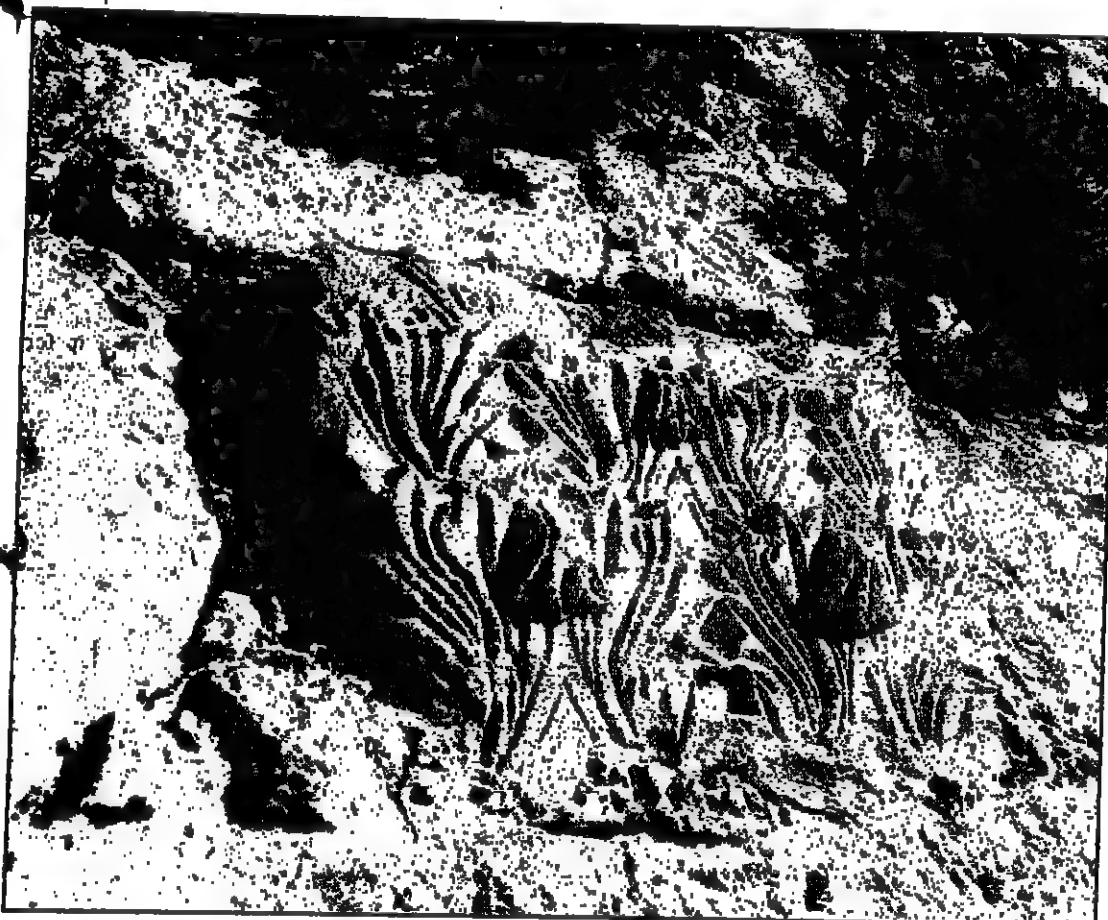
50 من الأصل



The 300-year-old olive press of Elias Kassiss in the Galilee village of Mi'ilya is said to be the oldest press in operation in Israel.

Hot off the press

Day Tripper By Haim Shapiro



The capital of an ancient pillar stands just outside the church's entrance, and is just one of many found in the area.

In a country where it seems you can see the remains of an ancient olive press in every other cave and on half the hill-tops, the one belonging to Elias Kassiss in the Galilee village of Mi'ilya is definitely not the oldest. However, if Kassiss is to be believed, it is the oldest olive press in operation.

The press, in a cavernous building adjoining the Crusader fortress that dominates the village, is about 300 years old — the same age as the village, which is populated by Greek Catholics who originally came from what is now Syria and Lebanon.

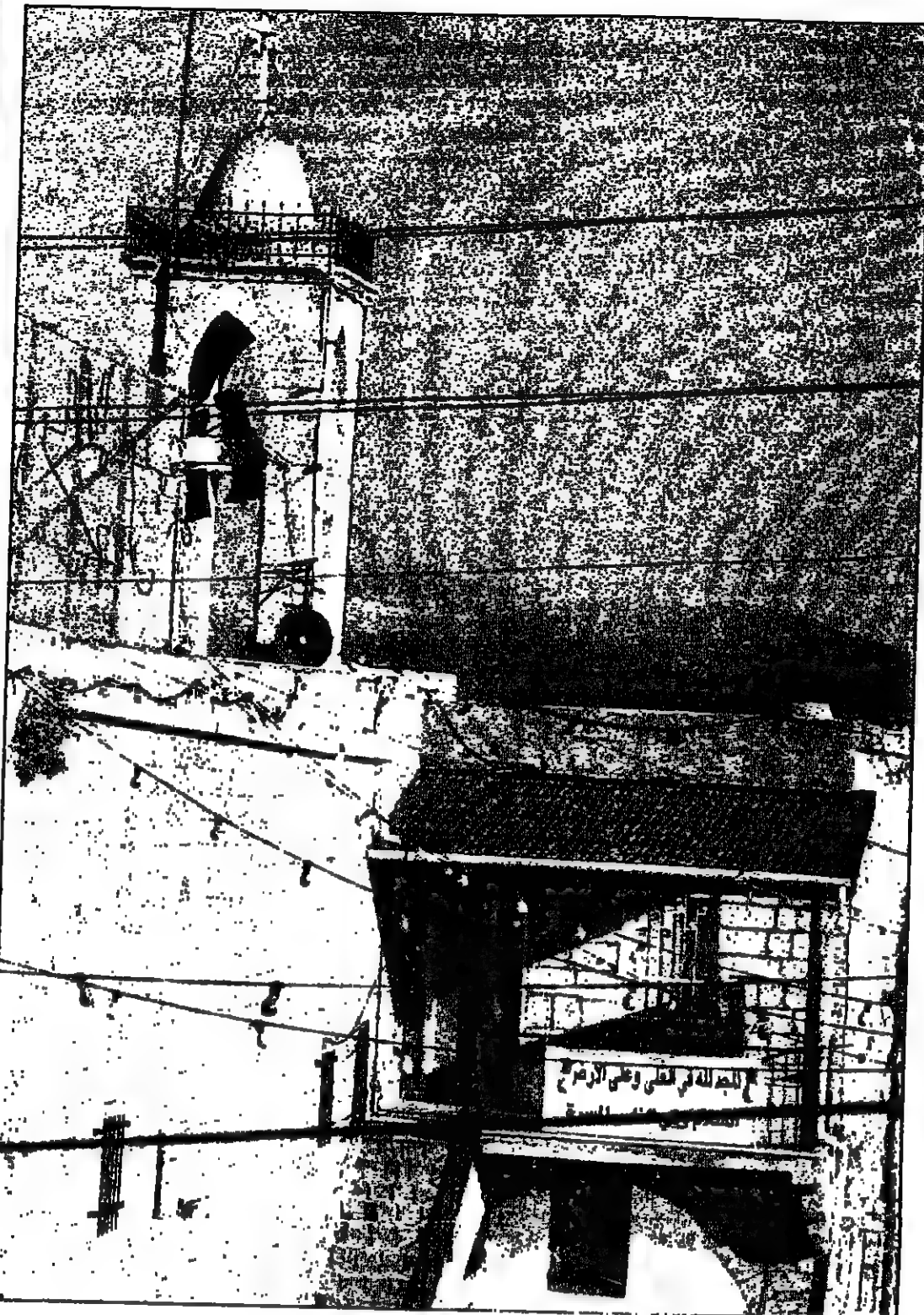
When we visited the press, there was a school group present. The children watched in wonderment as a sturdy donkey made the circuit turning a giant millstone.

While other oil presses sit unused most of the year, Kassiss keeps a supply of ripe olives so that he can demonstrate the working press to visitors throughout the year.

We visited the oil press as part of a stay at Teva B'Yehiam, the guest house at the Galilee kibbutz, which has its own impressive Crusader fortress. In fact, while the fortress at Mi'ilya is an awesome site from afar, it is impossible to visit, since the homes of the village have been built all around its foundations. The one in Yehiam, with its huge square pillars and vaulted arches, is fully accessible.

Recently the kibbutz has upgraded some of its guest rooms in what it calls "Crusader style." Needless to say, the Crusaders never enjoyed such facilities, but the newly refurbished rooms do offer a level of comfort and decor that can vie with many hotels. In addition to tours to such nearby attractions as the Mi'ilya olive press, the kibbutz also offers tours on horseback.

Weekender Travel



Mi'ilya's local church was erected at the beginning of the century. The naive vigor of the paintings inside make the site worth a visit. (Photos: Israel Sun)

It was during another trip to Mi'ilya that I visited the local church. Although erected at the beginning of the century, it is worth a visit.

I was particularly charmed by the naive vigor of the paintings on the iconostasis, the screen that separates the altar from the main part of the church. (Despite the fact that Greek Catholics accept the spiritual authority of the pope, their liturgy and church architecture follow that of Orthodox Christians.)

Also of interest is the capital of an ancient pillar which stands just outside the church entrance and

which, I was told, was one of many found in the area. On the side of the capital facing the main square is a Byzantine cross, while on the other side there is a menorah.

Although combinations of Jewish and Christian symbols from the early years of Christianity are not unknown in this country, they are far less common from the Byzantine period, when Christianity was the state religion and Judaism was, at best, tolerated.

The "Crusader style" rooms at Yehiam are available for NIS 265 per couple, including breakfast,

except during the summer and on holidays. For information, call (04) 985-6057.

Although the oil press at Mi'ilya is usually open only for groups, it is sometimes possible for individuals to arrange visits. Tel. (04) 997-5328.

For information about attractions and facilities throughout this area, it is wise to contact or visit the Western Galilee Information Center at Ein Hamifratz, on the Coastal Highway south of Acre. The center is open Sunday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jerusalem Post & Gefen Books



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Alex Singer was a hero. After making Aliyah from the United States, and serving as an infantry officer in the IDF, he was tragically killed while saving a comrade under heavy fire in Southern Lebanon. *Alex - Building A Life* is a poignant selection from his letters, journal entries and drawings.

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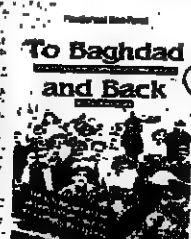
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On Camera

About faces

By DAVID BRAUNER

Dan Porges loves people. "I like people to smile, to look pleasant, to appear young." In every portrait, Porges attempts to make the people he loves "look the best they can in my eyes."

Portraiture is one of the most challenging and responsible, as well as rewarding, areas of photography. The Jerusalem-born Porges asserts that "a good portrait captures the eyes, the essence, the soul of the person, and actually is also a portrait of the photographer." In other words, a portrait is not only an interpretation of the subject, but also a reflection of the photographer's training, experience, personality and character.

Porges's father was a keen amateur photographer. Because he died when Dan was a child, "anything connected with him made me nostalgic. So I started playing with his camera, an old Contax that had been dropped so many times it didn't even take sharp pictures."

Porges's knowledge of German — gleaned from his father, who was from Berlin, and his mother, who was from Vienna — also helped his career as a photographer.

Through high-school friends he learned that the famous Jerusalem photographic partnership of Alfred Bernheim and Ricarda Schwerin needed a young assistant. Because Bernheim's Hebrew was highly limited, he required

someone who "spoke German, was interested in photography and knew nothing so that he could mold him from the beginning."

Porges was studying to be a tour guide and was registered to study archeology at university, but he opted for the apprenticeship. That was in 1966.

Bernheim was an acclaimed portrait photographer "of the old school" and once or twice a week he gave his apprentice a lecture in photography. Porges still has his notes, as well as many fond memories of his first mentor.

WHILE Porges was apprenticing, Moshe Dayan agreed to a sitting. Bernheim prepared 40 to 50 sheets of black-and-white film and 20 to 30 sheets of color film. Everything was ready.

Dayan marched in and sat down. Bernheim turned on the studio lighting, took three shots in monochrome and one in color. Then, needing to make some adjustment, the portraitist said the only words he knew in Hebrew, "Shalom, today." Dayan thought that was it, thanked the photographer, got up and walked out.

"Still, from those four shots he got a definitive image, and had thousands of orders," said Porges.

In 1969, Porges won himself a place at the Art College of Design in Los Angeles on the strength of a picture story he took of a beggar woman. After receiving a bachelor's



Former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek



Novelist Amos Oz

degree in fine arts, he moved to New York to work as a photographer's assistant in fashion and advertising.

His tasks included loading the cameras, setting exposures, taking instant Polaroid test pictures, arranging the lighting, and some-

times holding lamps and moving them around during the shoot.

"Some of the greatest photographers in the world don't know how to operate a camera. They don't need to," says Porges. "The photographer has the eye. All he needs is to see."

In the 1970s, Porges's pictures were appearing in the pages of top magazines and on the covers of *Business Week* and *Popular Photography*. His clients included Christian Dior and Bill Blass. In 1982 he made a career shift, opening his own business, and going behind the scenes as a custom lab photo technician.

His graphic productions appeared on record sleeves, in national advertising and on many products. Three years ago Porges returned to Jerusalem, where he formed a partnership with Photo Schwartz to operate a quality portrait studio.

Porges generally uses two strobes, one through a large umbrella and the second at the back for "Rembrandt light." He photographs using three or four cameras mounted with 300 mm. lenses, and expands three to five films per session. He never uses distorting wide-angle lenses.

Taking pleasing portraits requires much more than cameras

and lights. Sometimes Porges, while chatting away, will take pictures with an unloaded camera first to accustom particularly nervous subjects. He also studies the face to determine the person's best side, shaping the features to best advantage with light and shadow. "I need people to look at the camera. I don't let them look aside." His portraits are, therefore, direct, unembellished statements of personality.

When asked if he prefers men or women subjects, Porges answers, "I love women. But I take more pictures of men, because there are more famous men than women. But I would like to take more women's portraits." The father of two, he also enjoys photographing children.

When we spoke, the Education Ministry had just appointed Porges the official portrait photographer of the 1999 Israel Prize winners. In addition to his growing portfolio of leading political and entertainment personalities, he is also working on a long-term project — photographing the nation's top poets and writers.

The finest examples of his current work will be shown at forthcoming exhibitions at Tel Aviv's Beit Hasefer and the Jerusalem Theater lobby.

Your photography questions and comments are welcome. Contact David Brauner, e-mail: morir@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line) or fax 02-563-7792 or c/o Photo Archives, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000.

(Portrait: Dan Porges)

Former prime minister Shimon Peres

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(Above and center) Doron Ashkenazi finds the golden mean between the conservative and the outrageous.

Bridge

Reading your opponent

By MATTHEW GRANOVERTER

South dealer:
Both sides vulnerable

North (Rodwell)
♠ A Q J 10
♥ 8 5 2
♦ J 7 4 2
♣ J 5

West (Nickell) East (Freeman)
♠ 9 4 ♠ K 8 6 5 2
♥ J 3 ♥ 9 7
♦ A K 3 ♦ 9 8 6
♣ A Q 10 9 8 4 ♣ 7 3 2

South (Seligman)
♠ 7 3
♥ A K Q 10 6 4
♦ Q 10 5
♣ K 6

South West North East
1♥ 2♠ 2♥ pass
2NT pass 3♥ (all pass)

Opening lead: ♦K

Next Thursday, January 28, is the opening of this year's International Bridge Festival in Tel Aviv.

Though a number of professional players from various countries will be attending, the mainstream tournament players in Israel are ordinary people whose passionate hobby is bridge. A person can use his talents in his other field of expertise and apply them successfully at the bridge table.

Today's deal is a good example. It comes from the final session of the Blue Ribbon Pairs, a six-session event played in November in Orlando, Florida, at the American Fall Nationals. The deal helped the North-South pair to place second overall.

South was Marty Seligman, who teaches psychology at the University of Pennsylvania and has written 15 books on depression. His partner on this occasion was one of America's best bridge players, Eric Rodwell. Their opponents, East-West, were Dick Freeman of Atlanta, Georgia, and Nick Nickells, of New York, both

highly successful businessmen and world champions.

The bidding began with Seligman's one-heart opening. West overcalled two clubs and North raised to two hearts. Freeman passed, and Seligman made a game try with two notrump. His partner rejected and bid three hearts.

This call was a close one. Notice that three notrump would be cold for 10 tricks if West held the king of spades instead of East.

Against three hearts, the defenders needed five tricks to defeat the contract. Nickells started with the opening lead of the king of diamonds.

Freeman signaled with the six, asking his partner to shift. The best defense at trick two would be for West to switch to a spade. When declarer finesses, East wins the king of spades and switches to a club.

Now the defense has five tricks, one spade, two diamonds and two clubs. But the switch to a spade was risky; if South held the king of spades, it would be a mistake.

So West continued with the ace of diamonds to get more information. Now East played the nine of diamonds, as Seligman dropped the queen. The nine of diamonds was a clear suit-preference signal for spades, and Nickells got the message and switched to a spade.

Now, card players do not always tell the truth. And Seligman had to rely on his ability in psychology to determine whether his opponents were signaling honestly.

"Dickie Freeman has an honest, schoolboy face," said Seligman afterward. "So when he played the six, then the nine, on Nick's diamond king, then ace, I assumed he had the spade king. When Nick shifted to the spade nine, I won the ace, and drew trumps."

"I overtook the diamond 10 with the jack, and pitched my spade on the 13th diamond. I led the spade queen, which honest Dick covered. I re-entered the dummy with the trump eight, and pitched my clubs for two overtricks, plus 200, and a top on the board."

Matthew Granovetter can be reached at mat@bridgeaday.com

Chess

Proud father

By NIGEL SHORT

WILL have precious few opportunities to inflict my games upon the hapless public over the coming months, due to a gaping hole in my diary: the Las Vegas World Championship has been postponed until mid-1999 at Karpov's behest, to everyone's detriment except his own.

In addition, I had to withdraw from the annual Hoogovens tournament in January, because of the impending birth of my son and heir. Faced with the forlorn task of finding a suitable replacement at such short notice, the organisers, scraping the barrel, were reduced to inviting a certain Mr. O. Kasparov.

Anyway, this is all an excuse to show you a game of which I am extremely proud—last weekend's Bundesliga clash with the Russian champion Alexander Morozevich. Regular readers of this column will be aware that Morozevich has won practically everything he has played in this year; not last weekend though—then he got a damn good spanking. (A spot of harmless boasting should be permissible.)

Actually he was doing fine until he went awry in time-trouble. White: Nigel Short

Black: Alexander Morozevich
Bundesliga: November 1998
1. e4 e5 2. d4 d5 3. d3 d6 4. g5 d4. The MacCutcheon variation is a rare visitor to chess events at any level these days. At different times, such diverse talents as Alekhine, Petrosian, Bronstein, Nimzovich and Belyavsky have tried it, which certainly suggests it ought to be perfectly viable. 5. e5 d6 6. d4 d5 7. h3 d4 8. g4 d3 the most recent fashion, avoiding the chronic black square weaknesses that arise after 8. ...g6 at the cost of retarding Black's development. 9. d3. Queried by Anand in Chess Informant in his notes to his 1992 game with Ivanchuk. Had I prepared more thoroughly, I might have agreed that 9. h4! is more incisive. 9. ...e5 10. d3 d4 11. d4 d4. Fixing the structure and preparing a queenside pawn advance. 12. d2 d3 13. a4 d4 14. h4 14. d4! was possibly more accurate. 14. ...e5 15. d4 d5 16. g4 h4 17. c4 d4 18. c3 18. g5 c3! was very annoying. The text weakens b3. 18. ...d6 19. d4 d5 20. d4 d5 21. d4 d5 22. d4 d5 23. d4! I imagined that I must be doing quite well here as Black's b-pawn is a goner and his king-side remains asleep. I was wrong. 23. ...g7 24. d4 d5 25.

25. h5! 26. d4 d5 with

26. d4 d5 with

26. d4 d5 with

26. d4 d5 with

26. d4 d5 with

26. d4 d5 with

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(Above) Black-and-white portrait of a model; (inset) Dan Porges, portrait photographer

Proud as a peacock

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

A brief glimpse at current trends in menswear reminds us which gender the peacock is.

Conservative hues and styles that characterize the business world and exude a solid and reliable image are being cast asunder for after-hours dressing. Blue-blacks and muted browns and grays are replaced by brilliant greens, mustards, tangerines and other bright colors in suits and separates.

The results can sometimes be dazzling, with pants, shirt, vest, tie and jacket combining to form a wearable rainbow.

Local designer Doron Ashkenazi has found the golden mean between the conservative and the outrageous.

His styling is neat, but his shirts are not always of the ilk that are worn with ties. His cream-colored, bib-fronted mandarin-collared shirt is smart and elegant, yet not exactly conservative.

His Ming-blue cardigan with portrait neckline looks more like a

Flair

woman's garment on its own, but loses its gender impact when worn over a striped shirt with pointed collar. The curve in his vests is

which would look good on anyone, anywhere and at any time.

Ashkenazi's blue melange blanket coat is a slightly different story. Though cut as a straight-falling, button-up, high-collared coat, distinguished primarily by a large patch pocket on the left breast, the fabric design is such that it would take more than a little courage on the part of some men to wear it.

Most of Ashkenazi's mix-and-match collection is designed as much for comfort as for visual appeal, and it's perfectly obvious that his muse has a sense of humor. Ashkenazi designs more for individualists than he does for members of the pack. His clothes are not for men with herd mentalities, but for those who know how to combine individual pieces to create a look that conveys something of their own personalities.

The collection is not particularly seasonal. Many of the fabrics are what are considered summer weight. These are fashions to be

worn all year round. They're fun fashions which look good even on men with serious dispositions.

equally intriguing; and his tweed overshirt with flapped patch pockets is a wonderful unisex item

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MARK

مركز من الأصل

TEL-AVIV 100

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SMALL CAPITALIZATION

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Continued from Page 20

Philippoussis served 20 aces to Cheng's 22 in the 3-hour, 45-minute match, and dictated the pace, going constantly for winners.

With the high seeds missing, No. 6-Tina Henman was in a strong position to win his first Grand Slam event on a court that suits him.

But he had to rebound from a choppy start in blustery winds to reach the third round with a 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Australian Sandon Stolle.

No. 7-Karol Kucera of Slovakia beat Italy's Davide Sanguineti 7-5, 6-1, 6-4, and No. 8-Richard Krajicek beat Massimo Zamballo of Argentina 6-3, 6-2, 7-5.

Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, who had won two tournament titles, reached the third round by beating Zimbabwe's Byron Black 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-2), 6-0.

Women's matches

Lindsay Davenport reached the third round with the loss of

just seven games in two matches. She beat Argentina's Florencia Labat 6-2, 6-1, and disclosed later that she had undergone experimental magnetic therapy to help cure an elbow injury that nagged her for the last six months of 1998.

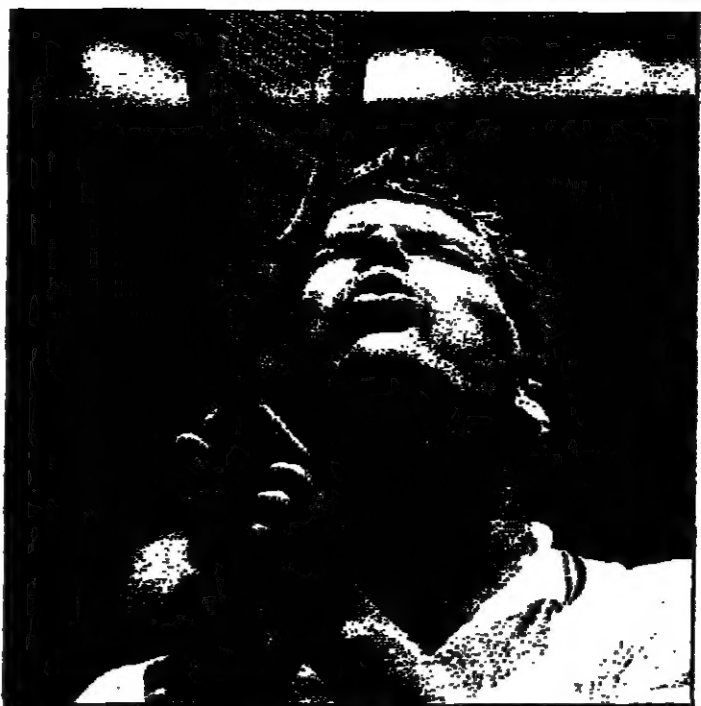
"I swear I did this magnet therapy, it's so embarrassing, but I put my arm under this magnet and it has not hurt me one bit since," Davenport said.

No. 5 Venus Williams was just as overpowering, dispatching Sweden's Asa Carlsson 6-2, 6-1 after losing the first two games.

No. 3 seed Jana Novotna lamented the windy conditions after an "ugly" 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 victory over Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia.

No. 8 Patty Schnyder didn't survive, losing 6-7 (1-7), 6-4, 6-3 to France's Amelie Mauresmo.

No. 9 Conchita Martinez of Spain beat American Brie Rippner 6-0, 6-4; No. 11-Dominique van Roost of Belgium beat Seda Noorlander of the Netherlands 7-6 (8-6), 6-0; and No. 15 Natasha Zvereva of Belarus beat American Meilen Tu 6-3, 7-5.



PRAYERS ANSWERED - Sweden's Thomas Enqvist reacts in his second-round match against Zimbabwe's Byron Black. Enqvist won in straight sets. (Reuters)

Broncos' defense doesn't give ground



DENVER (AP) - The Denver Broncos have the kind of stingy run defense that wins gridiron football championships.

In two straight playoff games, the Broncos have smothered the opposition's running attack, holding the Miami Dolphins and New York Jets to identically minuscule totals: 14 yards on 13 carries.

If they can summon a third effort of that magnitude against the Atlanta Falcons on January 31, the Broncos probably can start sizing their second straight Super Bowl championship rings.

"In the playoffs, the name of the game is running the football," Broncos defensive coordinator Greg Robinson said.

"If you can't run, it makes life harder on the quarterback. The team that can control the football usually wins."

In an AFC divisional playoff

game on January 9, the Broncos shut down Karim Abdul-Jabbar and the Miami running attack, forcing Dan Marino to try to win the game by himself. Marino was not up to the task, and Denver rolled 38-3.

In Sunday's AFC championship game, Curtis Martin and his Jets teammates were similarly stuffed. Even though Vinny Testaverde threw for 356 yards, he was intercepted twice.

In their last four games, in fact, the Broncos have been superb against the run, yielding a combined 88 yards on 67 carries, an average of only 1.3 yards.

Denver's defense mounted a similar late-season surge a year ago. For most of the 1997 season, Denver struggled against the run and finished a mediocre 16th in the NFL, allowing 112.7 yards per game. They yielded 4.7 yards per carry, the highest ever for a Super Bowl champion, but tightened their run defense in the postseason.

This season, they improved to No. 3 in the NFL, allowing 80.4 yards per game and 3.6 yards per carry, but have been even better

the last month.

"We have veteran leadership," defensive end Neil Smith said Tuesday, "and we just know when it's time to turn it on late."

On January 31 in Miami, the Broncos will try to turn it on again against Atlanta's Jamal Anderson, who finished second in the NFL to Denver's Terrell Davis with 1,846 yards rushing.

The Broncos believe the powerful Anderson, who carried an NFL-record 410 times during the regular season, presents one of their toughest challenges.

"Anderson is a runner who will rip your arms right out of the sockets if you don't wrap him up," defensive tackle Trevor Pryce said. The Broncos also were worried about Martin, who ran for 1,287 yards this season, but they quickly neutralized him.

Linebacker Bill Romanowski, who had a game-high 11 tackles against the Jets, said discipline has been a key to Denver's defensive resurgence. "Everybody has been very disciplined in what they do," he said. "It's been 11 guys flying to the ball."

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1995

Who needs Ewing?

Sprewell's presence may doom Knicks' center

Had Patrick Ewing been standing in Times Square on New Year's Eve, it's likely the ball would have descended on his head. That's the kind of January it has been for the man. His stature shrinks by the day.

MY CALL

By JOE GERGEN

At the conclusion of 1998, he not only was the cornerstone of the Knicks but also the president and chief spokesman for the NBA players' association in its labor negotiations with the league. In a span of less than three weeks, his counsel was disregarded when executive director Billy Hunter, fearing a mutiny from the union's middle class, made an overnight deal with commissioner David Stern, and his role with the Knicks has been threatened by a prospective trade for the controversial Latrell Sprewell. Having lost the league, Ewing stands on the brink of losing the team.

There were enough questions for the center to answer even before the lockout, the standoff and the loss of the first three months of the season. Ewing missed the final two-thirds of the 1997-98 campaign before his brief and ineffective return in the second round of the playoffs. Now, even if the right wrist is fully healed, will the lack of conditioning caused by his union activity slow him at the start of an abbreviated season?

About the only positive development from his perspective was the retirement of rival Michael Jordan, who blocked the Knicks' advance for much of Ewing's career. Yet, even that appears to be a mixed blessing.

Having already replaced dependable Charles Oakley with the younger and more athletic Marcus Camby, the team apparently saw the demise of the Chicago Bulls as the opportunity of a lifetime and reportedly has agreed to acquire Sprewell. If that's the case, by the time the Knicks gather for an abbreviated training camp, this no longer will be Ewing's team.

He'll still earn the largest salary and still be the nominal leader. But he's at the mercy of those handling the ball. The new generation of Knicks won't be as deferential as Allan Houston and Larry Johnson, the last pair of recruits who had to be encouraged to shoot more.

Camby and Sprewell have flourished in the open court. Don't expect them to wait for Ewing to set up in the post. Sprewell, in particular, needs the ball in his hands to be an offensive force. Other than his rookie

year, he's been the leading scorer on each professional team for which he played.

The Knicks never forgot the player who torched them for 41 points at Madison Square Garden in his second year in the league.

Neither did Pat Riley, their coach at the time. "He's retired, the last guy that got off like that against us," Riley said that night. The retired guy to whom he alluded was Jordan, then playing baseball.

So it's not surprising that the Miami Heat, where Riley now coaches, and the Knicks were Sprewell's foremost suitors once the lockout was lifted. They should know that even before the incident that precipitated his suspension from the league, his attempted choking of Coach P.J. Carlesimo. Sprewell was something less than a team player. He helped sabotage Don Nelson, the coach who drafted him in the first round from Alabama and who lobbied for his initial selection to the All-Star team.

Nelson's sin was that he traded Chris Webber, for whom he had placed the franchise in lock, after Webber pouted over criticism.

Sprewell sided with his friend, came late to practices, feuded with point guard Tim Hardaway (a Nelson supporter) and was suspended on two separate occasions by the Warriors for insubordination.

Maybe chemistry won't matter in a short season. Maybe Sprewell will do whatever the Knicks ask of him — come off the bench, play defense, hit the boards, be a model citizen. But this is the same player who didn't understand, or didn't choose to understand, after his assault on Carlesimo became a crime.

Instead of being thankful that arbitrator John Feerick reduced his penalty to the balance of the season, the player portrayed himself as a victim and filed a lawsuit seeking \$30 million in lost wages and damages. It was dismissed by a federal judge. Sprewell then fired his agent, Arn Tellem, for not including a clause in his four-year, \$32m contract that protected him from his own behavior.

All that's required to rubber stamp the transaction is a lack of conscience. Forget that a team representing New York should stand for something besides the national anthem. Forget that Sprewell will serve as a constant reminder that a talented athlete can beat the system, and his boss as well. (Newsday)

Predators take first-ever season series



NASHVILLE (AP) — Blair Atcheynum scored two goals as the Nashville Predators beat the Vancouver Canucks 4-1 Tuesday night, capturing a season series for the first time in the expansion franchise's history.

It was the first multi-goal game of Atcheynum's career, who gave Nashville insurance by scoring its final two goals.

Lightning 2, Sabres 1
Rob Zamuner scored the game-winning goal in the second period and Corey Schwab stopped 14 shots as host Tampa Bay gave its coach Jacques Demers his 400th win.

Demers becomes the 12th coach in NHL history to reach the milestone and second in as many days.

Senators 2, Rangers 1
Radek Bonk's third-period goal snapped a tie and gave Ottawa a road victory. Ron Tugnutt made 21 saves for the victorious Senators.

Flames 3, Red Wings 1
Jarome Iginla scored twice, including the go-ahead goal, to lead the hosts.

Coyotes 4, Blues 2
Rick Tocchet and Greg Adams each had a goal and an assist as Phoenix won its third straight at home. Tocchet's 14th goal of the season was the 399th of his career.

Avalanche 5, Kings 4
Joe Sakic scored twice, including the go-ahead goal, as visiting Colorado won its fourth straight.

The Kings' Donald Audette notched his 300th NHL career point on a power-play goal.



HIP-SHAKIN' — Rangers defenseman Jan Mertz (r) flips Senators center Vaclav Prospal (l) with a hip check as the two go after a puck behind the New York goal in third-period action. Ottawa won 2-1. (Reuters)

Buffalo 10-1
Tampa Bay 11-2
First Period: 1. Tampa Bay, Mike 1 (Richter), 2:51. 2. Buffalo, Stefan 10, 12:18 (pp). Second Period: 2. Tampa Bay, Zamuner 2 (Garrison), 12:43. Third Period: None. Shots on goal: Buffalo 5-6-15. Tampa Bay 11-17-32. Goals: Buffalo: Hasek, Tampa Bay: Schwab, A-10,136.

Ottawa 10-1
N.Y. Rangers 10-1
First Period: 1. New York, MacLean 16 (Graves), 7:56 (pp). 2. Ottawa, Gardiner 3 (Yasuni), 16:10. Second Period: None. Third Period: 3. Ottawa, Bonk 9 (Drescher), 8:43. Shots on goal: Ottawa 10-10-28. New York 11-6-23. Goals: Ottawa: Tugnutt, New York: Richter, A-18,200.

Vancouver 9-1
Nashville 12-1-4
First Period: 1. Nashville, Plagencio 5 (Walker, Lambert), 11:52. Second Period: 2. Nashville,

Khrushchov 4 (Ponoring, Kjellberg), 5:22. 3. Nashville, Atcheynum 4 (Lambert, Johnson), 15:24. Third Period: 4. Vancouver, Brashers 5 (Beruzzi, Kest), 5:52. 5. Nashville, Atcheynum 9 (Vachon, Johnson), 10:44. Shots on goal: Vancouver 5-6-8-10. Nashville 11-18-40. Goals: Vancouver: Snow, Nashville: Volkov, Dunham, A-15,321.

Detroit 10-3
Calgary 10-3-3
First Period: 1. Detroit, McCarty 12 (Zverem, Malloy), 7:26 (pp). 2. Calgary, Iginla 17 (Pleary, Housley), 7:50. Second Period: None. Third Period: 3. Calgary, Iginla 18 (Brentz, Morris), 4:20. 4. Calgary, Gosselin 9 (Werner, Hake), 7:19 (pp). Shots on goal: Detroit 12-11-47. Calgary 11-6-33. Goals: Detroit: McCarty, Calgary: Bratwaile, A-15,840.

St. Louis 11-0-2
Phoenix 0-2-1-4
First Period: 1. St. Louis, MacInnis 12 (Demers, Campbell), 18:59 (pp). Second Period: 2,

Phoenix, Don 2 (Murray, Cormier), 8:26. 3. Phoenix, Tocchet 4 (Adams, Ours), 14:18. 4. St. Louis, Corney 4 (Ponoring, Pellerin), 15:26. 5. Phoenix, Drisde 5 (Therrien, Lammie), 18:13. Third Period: 6. Phoenix, Adams 9 (Tocchet, Corney), 1:20. Shots on goal: St. Louis 11-11-25. Phoenix 4-12-23. Goals: St. Louis: McLennan, Fehr, Phoenix: Khabibulin, A-15,103.

Colorado 2-2-4
Los Angeles 11-12-4
First Period: 1. Los Angeles, Galtay 3 (Laroc, Ross), 5:28. 2. Colorado, Sobot 17 (Ponoring, Housley), 12:43. 3. Colorado, Corney 5 (Dunham, Gosselin), 12:58. Second Period: 4. Los Angeles, Downing 3 (Robitaille, Perreault), 3:16. 5. Colorado, Sobot 19 (Ponoring, Housley), 8:45. 6. Colorado, Valle 5 (de Vries), 10:45. Third Period: 7. Colorado, Karaman 9 (Lamont, 4:57. 8. Los Angeles, Rivis 15. 16. 11. 41. 165. 112. Shots on goal: Colorado 10-17-42. Los Angeles 8-9-14-31. Goals: Colorado: Roy, Los Angeles: Flett, A-9,882.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	23	10	10	56	131	86
New Jersey	23	14	5	51	122	111
Pittsburgh	20	13	7	47	120	108
N.Y. Rangers	17	20	7	41	116	122
N.Y. Islanders	13	28	3	29	99	129

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	24	14	6	54	130	108
Toronto	23	16	3	53	142	127
Buffalo	23	13	7	53	119	94
Boston	20	15	7	47	115	94
Montreal	17	20	8	42	106	117

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	20	17	7	47	115	108
Atlanta	15	16	11	41	103	112
Washington	16	22	4	36	99	129
Tampa Bay	10	30	4	24	91	152

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	22	20	3	47	131	121
St. Louis	16	16	9	41	109	104
Nashville	16	24	4	36	102	140
Chicago	12	25	7	31	94	138

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	21	19	4	46	110	111
Edmonton	18	19	6	42	123	113
Vancouver	15	24	6	36	115	135
Calgary	15	26	4	34	110	135

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	27	8	7	61	123	83
Phoenix	24	11	6	54	118	84
Anchorage	17	18	8	42	107	101
San Jose	15	19	11	41	101	103
Los Angeles	16	24	4	36	104	116

Maccabi Tel Aviv hoopsters in Varese reprise

By BRIAN FREEMAN

For those who are nostalgic about the good old days of Maccabi Tel Aviv, tonight's EuroLeague game at Varese is especially for you.

For unlike other great teams like CSKA Moscow and Real Madrid with which Maccabi battled when it burst upon the European scene more than 20 years ago, and against whom it has continually played over the years, tonight's contest is the first matchup against Varese since those magical 1970s.

It was, of course against Varese in 1977, on a neutral court in Belgrade, that Maccabi upset the

two-time defending European champions to capture its first European title.

That was in an era when all of Israel backed the team with a national fervor that transcended sport and transformed Maccabi into the defender of the Jewish people, slashing away at enemies across Europe.

Tonight's game provides another direct link to the past in that Maccabi will once again be battling against a Meneghin.

Dino Meneghin, first of Varese and then of Milan, was one of Maccabi's most feared and respected opponents during the '70s and '80s. Now his son,

Andrea Meneghin, is one of Varese's top players.

Varese and Maccabi enter tonight's contest with 5-7 records and tied for the fourth and final spot from Group F to qualify for the Final 16.

With only three games remaining after tonight, including a rematch against Varese on February 18 at Yad Elihu, the intensity of the matchup should not be underestimated.

Varese, which is in first place in the tough Italian league with a 16-1 record, has a 4-1 mark at home in the EuroLeague, the only loss coming at the hands of Group E leader Zalgiris Kaunas.

Varese scores 78.3 points a contest, third best in the EuroLeague, and is led by Croatian Veljko Mrsic, who at 18.7 points per game is fifth best in the league.

Point guard Gianmarco Pozzetto is second in the league with 5.8 assists and 3.7 steals a game. He also scores 15 points and shoots 89.7 percent (61-68) from the free-throw line.

In fact, Varese as a team gets to the foul line many more times per game (24) than does Maccabi (17) and shoots a higher percentage (76.8%-71.5%), factors which could certainly come into play in a tight game.

Meneghin is the club's third-

leading scorer at 12.3 points a game, while forward Alessandro De Pol chips in 8.9, along with a team-leading 5.4 rebounds.

Maccabi has never won in Varese in five attempts during the championships and sports only a 7-35 record in Italy.

The game is scheduled to be shown live on Channel 1 starting at 21:25.

EuroLeague Group F

	W	L	Pts
Frankfurt	12	2	24
Eintracht	12	8	24
Bayern	12	6	18
Varese	12	5	17
Maccabi TA	12	5	17
Saragat	12	2	10

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Mac: I wanna be like George

New Hall of Famer hopes for Foreman-like longevity to show skills

NEW YORK (AP) — Now that he's in the Hall of Fame, John McEnroe feels comfortable with his place in tennis history.

Asked how he'd like to be remembered after being elected to the tennis shrine with Australian Ken McGregor, McEnroe ignored his seven Grand Slam championships. Instead, he focused on his style and energy.

"I'm not the biggest. I'm not the strongest. I'm not the fastest," he said. "The effort and intensity and understanding of technique and doing something adventurous — that's what I'd like to be remembered for. I bought some energy to the sport, a style of play not duplicated almost at all. I feel I was a good athlete, in some ways underrated. I had reasonable attributes."

They would include the famous McEnroe temper, set off by all manner of episodes. He doesn't rant and rave anymore, now that he's almost 40. But he does get steamed over some things like the deterioration of the Davis Cup.

Once considered as important as any of the Slams, the Cup has drifted into a second-class citizenship, shrugged off because it does not provide players with the two staples of their sport — prize winnings and ranking points.

McEnroe thinks that's a terrible development.

"When you look back on your career, what do you remember?" McEnroe said. "Being part of the Davis Cup or your ranking and the money you won? You don't put aside the chance to represent your country."

Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi did that last fall, leaving America's semifinal Cup challenge to ailing



SUPER SENIOR — John McEnroe after winning the Honda Challenge senior cup following his straight-set triumph over Yannick Noah in December 1998. (AP)

Jim Courier, who pulled out because of an arm injury, veteran Todd Martin and two rookies, Justin Gimelstob and Jan-Michael Gambill. They lost 4-1 to Italy in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

McEnroe was not amused. "I'm not here to badmouth any player," he said. "I can lose as easy as they did and bring some energy to it. I'm not quite sure why people don't think I can play doubles. I'm hitting better than I have for six or eight years. My stated goal is to be the George Foreman of tennis."

There's some tongue in cheek there, but also some truth. He admires what Foreman has done in boxing. The idea is appealing for McEnroe, who is No. 1 on the Nueven Seniors Tour with eight victories this season. He can still hit the ball.

McEnroe played Davis Cup tennis for 12 years, posting a 59-10 record. He holds six Cup records, including most singles victories (41), and seems almost as proud of those wins as the seven Grand Slam titles, 77 singles and 77 doubles championships that led to his election to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. He was part of five winning Davis Cup teams.

McEnroe said his most memorable match was the five-set loss to Bjorn Borg in the 'finals' at Wimbledon in 1980. He pushed that match to the limit after winning a fourth-set tiebreaker 18-16.

"The match with Borg is the one I hear about most," McEnroe said. "It showed me that in losing you can elevate your status. Even if you don't win every time, if you're part of history, that makes it OK."

Denver's stingy D

Wingin' it



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Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

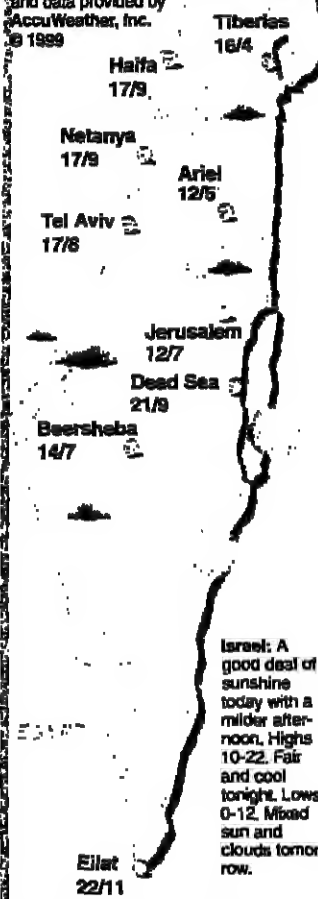
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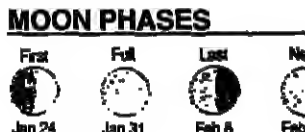
ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	Friday
Ariel	12/53 54/16	10/61 84/80pc
Beer Sheva	14/57 74/46	18/64 94/80pc
Dead Sea	21/70 94/80	24/75 125/30pc
Elot	22/71 115/28	25/77 145/31
Haifa	17/62 94/95	20/68 125/30pc
Jerusalem	12/53 74/46	15/59 94/80pc
Katanz	13/55 134/9	15/59 54/16
Nesanya	17/62 94/80	20/68 125/30pc
Tel Aviv	17/62 94/80	20/68 125/30pc
Tiberias	16/61 42/56	19/68 74/46

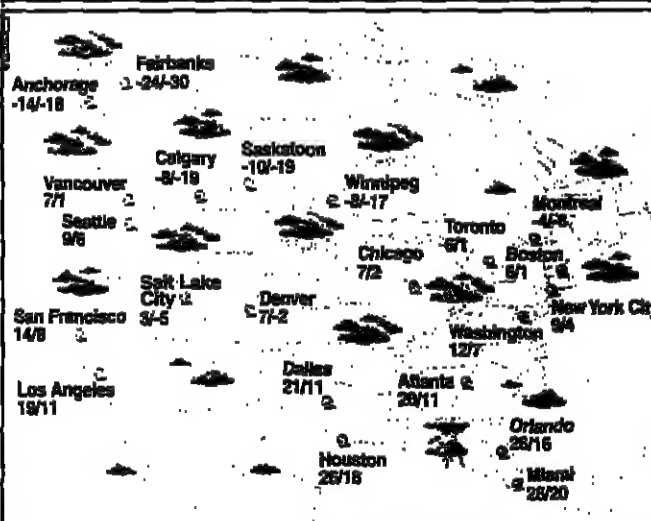
INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Friday
Amsterdam	8/46 45/51	8/46 30/70pc
Berlin	8/46 35/70pc	6/43 124/45h
Brussels	8/46 34/39	8/46 42/59
Calo	22/71 125/30	24/75 125/30pc
Chicago	7/44 25/56	7/44 12/46
Frankfurt	8/46 35/70pc	4/39 131/41m
Hong Kong	19/66 18/61pc	21/70 18/44pc
Jerusalem	12/53 74/46	15/59 94/80pc
London	10/50 43/59	8/46 43/59pc
Los Angeles	15/66 115/28	20/68 94/80pc
Moscow	8/46 43/59	7/44 3/37
Mumbai	24/75 81/36	28/71 74/46
Monreal	-1/31 -32/74	3/37 -22/29
Moscow	8/46 43/59	8/46 43/59
New York	7/44 4/39	5/41 25/56
Paris	8/46 10/49	3/37 134/45h
Peking	33/51 25/77	31/88 24/75
Rio de Janeiro	13/55 35/78	13/55 43/59
Rome	22/71 125/30	24/75 125/30pc
Sydney	8/46 12/46	8/46 8/46
Tokyo	8/46 12/46	8/46 8/46
Toronto	8/46 12/46	8/46 8/46
Vancouver	8/46 12/46	8/46 8/46
Washington	8/46 12/46	8/46 8/46
Yokohama	8/46 12/46	8/46 8/46

MOON PHASES

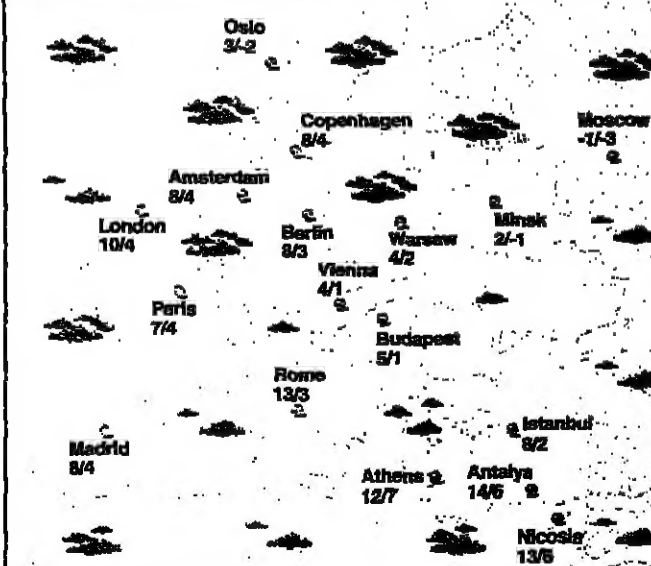


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Weekends

Lackluster Norway beat Israel, 1-0

By ORI LEWIS

Norway beat Israel 1-0 in a friendly soccer international yesterday in one of the timest matches seen at the National Stadium for many a year.

The Norwegians capitalized on an 11th-minute penalty decision which was picked up only by Italian referee Pierluigi Collina, and Norway's Bent Skammelsrud buried his spot kick in the back of Nir Davidovich's net. Collina adjudged Walid Badir to have pushed a Norwegian defender off the ball after a Norwegian corner and, after a few words with the Israeli defense, he calmly pointed to the spot. Skammelsrud's powerful shot left Davidovich grasping at the air.

The Norwegians played an organized, but unimaginative defensive game, but their flat back four formation prevented any penetration by Israel's attacking forays and the midfield - Avi Nimni in particular - failed to find center forward Ronnen Harazi.

The Norwegians also closed the midfield while the Israelis' ineffective passing game failed to test Tottenham's Espen Bardsen at all in the first half. With only John Carew up front, Israel had little difficulty in thwarting Norway's few attacks.

In the second period, Israel coach



MARGIN OF VICTORY - Norway's Bent Skammelsrud (1) scores a penalty shot past Israel goalkeeper Nir Davidovich. (Reuters)

Shlomo Scharf added a second striker in the shape of Alon Mizrahi. This opened up Israel's options and they had several shots on goal but failed to find the target. Israel had a chance to equalize on 59 minutes when Collina again blew for a penalty as Najwan Grayeb was brought down by Egil Ostensrud, but Nimni's spot kick hit the left upright and bounced clear.

The woodwork had a part in preventing Israel from scoring on two more occasions. First Nimni hit the left upright, and Ran Ben-Shimon hit the crossbar from a free kick in the final minute. Earlier, Carew had a chance to score a spectacular goal at the other end, but his overhead kick was parried by Davidovich.

"We are always pleased to win away from home," said Norwegian coach Nils Johan Semb. "Israel had several chances to score, but we kept our defense tight," he continued.

Scharf, disappointed with the result, said he could not understand the Norwegian tactics. "I am surprised that the Norwegians came here and played with only one man upfront," he said.

The tri-nations tournament part of the Israel Football Association's 70th anniversary celebrations, winds up tomorrow when Norway meet Estonia in Umm el-Fahm. A win for Norway will ensure them victory in the event.

Lockout settled, business can begin today



NEW YORK (AP) - The lockout in the NBA was officially settled yesterday, and teams were told they can begin signing players, making trades and opening training camps today.

"We have an agreement, and we expect to have the deal signed tonight," league spokesman Chris Brienza said yesterday.

Teams immediately can begin talking to their players, something that was forbidden since NBA commissioner David Stern and players union director Billy Hunter agreed two weeks ago on the terms of a new collective bargaining agreement.

Opening night is less than 2½ weeks away, and the NBA is expected to release a new schedule by the end of the week.

Earlier yesterday, the laborious task of

reducing the settlement into written form hit a few last-minute snags after lawyers for the owners and players spent the whole night meeting.

In the meantime, the rumors kept coming and the plots kept twisting as teams maneuvered to get ready for the scheduled February 5 start of the season.

First, Dennis Rodman dropped out. Then, Antonio McDyess deliberated and Rod Strickland wavered.

Hours after his agent, Dwight Manley, announced Rodman was leaving the game for good, the NBA's most outlandish player denied it.

"I'm not going to play this year," Rodman said. "I am in limbo, but I'm not going to say I'm retired."

That's not how his former coach heard it. In a strange twist earlier in the day, Chuck Daly of the Orlando Magic said he had heard Rodman had been traded to the New

York Knicks for Buck Williams - a rumor that was quickly shot down.

Rodman, whose multicolored hair, body piercings and tattoos made a fashion statement across the NBA and beyond, has become the latest star to leave Chicago as the Bulls rebuild after the retirement of Michael Jordan.

For now, the league loses a seven-time rebounding leader who once donned a wedding gown, kicked a cameraman, head-butted a referee, dated Madonna and married Carmen Electra.

David Falk's top free agent client, Strickland, was reportedly miffed at the offer being made by the Washington Wizards. McDyess, meanwhile, put off for another day a decision on where he'll play - Denver or Phoenix.

"It defies logic in my opinion," Suns owner Jerry Colangelo said. "We think this is a great spot for him. He seemed very

happy here. We love him as a young guy and a future star in this league. But a lot of things have happened this offseason."

If McDyess chooses to move, it will leave the Suns scrambling to execute a backup plan. There was widespread speculation that they would turn their attention toward Tom Gugliotta, who was thought to have narrowed his choices to staying with the Timberwolves or joining the Nuggets.

The Nuggets also were wondering whether they would be spurred by Gugliotta in the event that McDyess stays in Phoenix. If so, they were expected to look to sign free-agent center Vladi Divac.

Divac flew back from Europe on Tuesday, and will have a choice of signing with Denver, Phoenix or Sacramento.

In another agreed-upon deal, the SuperSonics were set to send center Jim McIlvaine to the Nets for veteran forwards Michael Cage and Don MacLean.

A Ruud awakening for Corretja

MELBOURNE (AP) - Christian Ruud, who spent much of last season in tennis' minor leagues, knocked out second-seeded Alex Corretja yesterday, leaving the Australian Open with only one of its top four men's seeds.

Ruud, a Norwegian ranked 86th in the world, belted back loopy groundstrokes throughout, and on the first match point, Corretja hit a forehand long on the 30th shot, giving Ruud a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win.

Michael Chang, who in past years has usually been one of the top four, was thwarted in his comeback effort, falling 7-6 (7-1), 3-6, 6-3, 5-7, 7-5 to 14th-seeded Mark Philippoussis. The US Open runner-up, Chang was seeded third last year, but has slumped to 27th in the rankings

after a season spoiled by knee and wrist injuries.

Ruud reached the third round of a Grand Slam event for only the third time in 17 tries. His best performance was in 1997, advancing to the Aussie Open fourth round.

Corretja is the seventh men's seed left on the sidelines. At the top, No. 1 Marcelo Rios withdrew with a back injury and No. 4 Carlos Moya, the French Open champion, lost in the first round to Germany's Nicolas Pietrangeli. And top-ranked Pete Sampras stayed home.

Philippoussis gained the crucial break over Chang in the 11th game of the final set by twice running around his backhand to slam forehands straight down the line.

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Smashnova ousted

Anna Smashnova failed in her attempt to reach the third round yesterday and a chance to play Conchita Martinez, by losing in the second round to France's Emilie Loit.

Smashnova holds a world ranking advantage over Loit, 44 against 95, but could not adapt to Loit's play and her frequent forays to the net.

Smashnova lost 1-6, 6-2, 6-2 in a 79-minute match.

Loit, who had beaten Mirjana Lucic from Croatia in the first round, now proceeds to face Martinez, the ninth seed.

Heather Chalk

Hap Jerusalem routs Belgians

By ELI GRONER

Bring on Badalona!

The Spanish club now stands between Hapoel Jerusalem and a Saporta Cup Final 8 spot - along with a possible second Israeli spot in next year's EuroLeague - after Hapoel Jerusalem disposed of Telindus Antwerp, 94-66, in Malha last night.

The 28-point victory was more than enough to overcome last week's three-point road loss.

Hapoel jumped out to a double-digit lead after only five minutes and never looked back. Derrick Hamilton and Kenny Williams sparked the early charge with 16 and 15 first-half points respectively, on a combined 13-of-16 shooting.

The first half was arguably Hapoel's best season, as the early domination led to 20 minutes of garbage time in the second half. The Jerusalemites' superiority manifested itself in its ball move-

ment (18 first-half assists, 27 overall), hustle (eight steals, 10 overall) and pinpoint shooting accuracy (64% first half, 55% overall).

The first half also featured the No. 1 Hapoel highlight-reel play-off-the-year: a scintillating Williams reverse jam off an H Waldman alley-oop midway through the half which gave the hosts a 28-14 advantage.

Lost in the excitement of the win was Waldman's sterling performance: the point guard was only a couple of missed layups away from the second-ever Israeli triple double. His line: 14 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists. But after the game, Waldman was already looking forward to the next round.

"We're going to have to keep on improving if we want to keep advancing," said Waldman. "[Against Badalona], where we don't have home-court advantage, we're going to have to play a solid first game as well."

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